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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2015

Attack on GEM over Welsh language page
(See Page 19)

Wales and the Six Nations
SEE PREVIEW FEATURE ON PAGE 17

Harbour project's £300,000 vote of confidence

A PORTHCAWL community project that aims to transform the harbour area has received a vote of confidence – and more importantly – almost £300,000 in cash, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The ultimate aim for the Porthcawl Harbourside project is a flagship maritime building which will house a range of facilities and attractions.

The £300,000 of new money will enable them to make space for another 36 berths for boats and small yachts – an investment that should provide employment for three people.

A director of Porthcawl Harbourside, Michael Clarke, told The GEM that it was a 'Community Interest Company' (CIC) working with "a range of partners to secure a new maritime centre and thriving well-resourced marina and watersports centre within the emerging Porthcawl Harbour Quarter."

The old harbour was recently converted into a permanent water berth for 70 boats, in a project run by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

The Porthcawl Harbourside group has now been successful in securing £297,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund to enable 'phase 2' to go ahead.

The Coastal Communities Fund is run by the Big Lottery on behalf of UK Government and through the Welsh Government in Wales.

Announcing the awards, the Minister Lesley Griffiths AM congratulated a number of projects, which will share £4,591,612, on their successful bids.

She said: "We want to see vibrant, viable communities all along Wales's fantastic coastline. This fund will support our work to regenerate coastal towns, boosting their economic development as well as their standing as key tourism and cultural destinations."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

LOCAL SCHOOL'S UGANDAN LINK!

Pupils at a Porthcawl school have planted two apple trees to strengthen links with children in Uganda.
(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6)

RAID ON CORNER SHOP – 'PALTRY' SUM OF £20 STOLEN

Brothers' three-year jail sentence for Londis baseball bat robbery

Report by **AJ SICLUNA**

A WOMAN shopkeeper was terrified when two men, one armed with a baseball bat, carried out a robbery at her corner shop, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Bamla Singh later said: "I didn't think something like this could happen. I could have been injured".

The two involved made off with the "paltry" sum of £20 said prosecutor John Warren.

Jamie Ball, 32, of no fixed address, and his brother, Julian Ball, 24, of Woodland Terrace, Pant-yr-Awel, Bridgend, each admitted a charge of robbery and they were each jailed for three years.

Julian Ball received a further four months, to run consecutively for the breach of a suspended sentence imposed for carrying a meat cleaver.

Recorder Huw Rees told them: "You two were involved in what was a pre-planned offence. The victim was clearly vulnerable and the effect on her has been considerable.

"All this was for the paltry sum of £20."

Mr Warren said that Mrs Singh was alone in the Londis supermarket in High Street, Ogmore Vale, at about 3.20pm on Thursday, November 13.

Both men went in and out of the store twice and spoke to her about buying alcohol.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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High vis vests help keep Guides safe

Carly Jenkins and Collette McClymont with the 1st Newton Guides.

TWENTY-FIVE high-visibility vests and goody bags have been donated to a local Guides group – to help increase awareness of road safety.

Specsavers store on Adare Street, Bridgend contacted 1st Newton Guides, based in Porthcawl, to offer the vests, as well as a talk from a member of Specsavers staff on the importance of road safety.

Carly Jenkins, store manager and Collette McClymont, administrator, visited the Guides to hand over the vests and goody bags, and also help demonstrate The Green Cross Code and road awareness initiatives.

The Specsavers goody bags included the high-vis vests, pens, balloons and information leaflets on the importance of being visible as a pedestrian during the darker winter months.

Carly said: "We really enjoyed our time helping the Guides learn about the importance of road safety through fun activities and the Specsavers goody bag donations. We hope they enjoy wearing their high-visibility vests this winter."

Helen Murdoch, one of the leaders at the 1st Newton Guides, said: "I'd like to say a very big thank you to Carly and Collette for coming to talk to the girls about road safety, and also for the goody bags. The high-visibility waistcoats will be very useful when we are out and about on trips and visits in the local community."

Council plan to expand local school

PARENTS, teachers, pupils and governors will be asked to have their say on plans to expand and re-locate Brynmenyn Primary School, so that it can accommodate an extra 284 pupils, the cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has announced.

A consultation is being launched into proposals to build a new two-form entry school on surplus land next to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, in a bid to cope with a rising demand for school places in the Valleys Gateway area.

A BCBCV spokesman said: "Considerable housing developments – which are expected to result in 1,200 new homes being built – mean that there is increased pressure on Brynmenyn, Tondu and Bryncethin Primary Schools to accommodate new pupils.

"A feasibility study has shown that Bryncethin Primary School is unsuitable for enlargement, because it has recently had a new early years unit built and further expansion on the site – as well as being difficult and expensive – would not solve the problem alone.

"It is also not possible to expand the current Brynmenyn school site at Bryn Road because it is very small and surrounded by common land. Additionally, there are significant issues outside the school at drop-off and pick-up times.

"Tondu Primary School currently operates on split sites, but the study has shown that by building a new, larger primary school for Brynmenyn pupils, catchment changes could take place which would in turn help Tondu primary to become a single-site school.'

If the plans are approved, subject to the statutory consultation, the new school would open on September 1, 2017 – although changes to catchment areas would require a separate consultation which would be carried out in due course.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "If these proposals go ahead, it will mean that we can build a bigger school with more modern facilities less than a mile away from the current establishment on Bryn Road.

"The Valleys Gateway communities are growing and we are sensitive to their needs, particularly when it comes to their children's education. By building a new primary school, we can ensure that there are enough places in years to come, along with the associated benefits for Tondu Primary School, which we hope to be able to run on a single site."

An initial six-week consultation will now be carried out to allow all interested parties to comment on the proposals.

Coun David added: "I would urge as many people as possible to get involved in this consultation and make their views known."

GEM Readers' Letters EXTRA

Connection with the 'Murrow Boys'

FEW people alive this side of the 'pond' will recall Richard Hottelet, who died recently aged 97. He was one of the 'Murrow Boys' recruited by Edward R Murrow of CBS to report from the front line in World War Two.

Certainly, the thousands of US troops stationed in the Vale of Glamorgan would have known his voice well – as would their families back in the USA.

He was unique as he was the son of German US immigrants, born in Brooklyn. Speaking fluent German, he went to work in Berlin and was incarcerated by the Gestapo for four months, accused of spying; only the intervention of the US Ambassador saved him.

During the subsequent conflict, Hottelet reported on the D-Day landings, the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes (exactly 70 years ago) and the invasion of Germany.

He was shot down east of the Rhine and parachuted into the company of British soldiers who revived him with hot tea, laced with single malt whisky!

Rumours persist that he was a spy. Certainly, the Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) and the Gestapo were so convinced, he was captured and exchanged as part of a trade for three suspected spies in the US.

He also had a British girlfriend, who he later married, Ann Delafield, who worked for the British Foreign service in Spain, under Kim Philby, later exposed as a Soviet spy.

Hottelet passed information to her and therefore unwittingly to Soviet Russian, via Philby, who ended his life in Moscow with a senior rank in the KGB.

Hottelet continued in Europe after the war, and his marriage to Delafield lasted 71 years. In 2006, he returned to his wartime HQ in London at 84 Hallam Street, and unveiled a memorial plaque.

One of his iconic broadcasts had been from above the D-Day beaches: "This is Richard Hottelet reporting... the Allied forces landing in France early this morning. I watched the first landing craft hit the beach exactly on the minute of H-hour." Were any of those troops previously stationed in south Wales? Almost certainly, yes.

He died just before Christmas 2014. RIP.

Christopher Short, Barry.

Hidden threat to respite centres

FURTHER to your article 'Future is uncertain for popular local respite centre' in The GEM on January 8.

There are no other respite care facilities in this area. Whilst the charges at this venue are extremely expensive, even without any actual care package being required, it does allow for carers to have a break for holidays, etc.

How and when Cartrefi Cymru charity took control of this facility does not appear to have been made public and as this respite centre was built with money from the Welsh Church Fund, surely there should have been public consultation before it was handed over to new trustees?

These trustees now seem to be saying that they can no longer manage the respite centre as a financial going concern.

My fear is that this community asset will end its days in a similar manner to The Porthcawl Rest, which was a miners' rehabilitation care centre, on one of the most desirable re-development sites in Wales. Lost and gone forever.

Can anyone advise how much this sale raised and how the money has been used? Community facilities such as the above are fast disappearing in south Wales, with very little consultation or information being given to the public.

It appears that boards of trustees can say they no longer wish or are able to run these valued community facilities and they can change hands without consultation or formal information being forthcoming to the community.

Where the Charity Commission comes into the scenario is a mystery.

With local weekly newspapers fast disappearing in Wales there will be even less source for information such as you published regarding the possible loss of respite care centre facility in Porthcawl to become public knowledge, and that leaves even more scope for community facilities to disappear before the community is aware of it.

Avril Lake, Porthcawl.

Editor's note: Never fear, Ms Lake, while the print media as a whole is certainly facing a challenge, The GEM, for one, is rising to it and will remain ever vigilant!

Winter tips for the over 60s

RESIDENTS aged over 60 can stay warm and well this winter, thanks to Age Cymru's 'Winter Wrapped Up' guide, for keeping older people healthy and safe.

The charity wants to ensure that the right information is provided to help vulnerable people stay safe and warm as winter bites.

Angharad Philips, Age Cymru's Keep Well This Winter campaign co-ordinator said: "Winter isn't everyone's favourite season and there's no doubt that the cold weather can be a worry for people in later life.

"With a little preparation, and by following some simple suggestions, you can stay healthy, safe and as comfortable as possible this winter."

Age Cymru's 'Winter Wrapped Up' guide is available from Age Cymru Porthcawl, 37 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP.

WI support the First Responders

THE first speaker of the New Year at Pencoed WI was Lyn Woolls, from the Pontyclun First Responders.

He gave a very interesting insight into the work these volunteers carry out, and also showed a short video of the warning signs of a heart attack or a stroke.

It was our great pleasure to be able to present them with a cheque for £500.

This was the amount raised by our November autumn fayre, so once again a big thank you to all of you who supported this advent.

We have members taking part in the Glamorgan Federation whist competition and our intrepid darts team are competing at the end of February.

I hope this year they can get some practice in and I think they are very brave to keep on trying!

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Pencoed Welfare Hall, from 1.45pm to 4.15pm.

For further information, telephone 01656 862181,or 01656 860289. ***PP***

Tax help for elderly

Taxhelp for Older People, which holds a montly advice session at Pencoed Library, will also hold free surgeries at the CAB offices, Bridgend, offering professional help for those with income tax queries or problems.

To book an appointment at either venue, telephone 0845 6013321.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	07.31	10.7	20.41	10.4
23 Fri	08.21	10.8	20.44	10.5
24 Sat	09.07	10.5	21.25	10.1
25 Sun	09.52	10.1	22.12	9.7
26 Mon	10.38	9.7	22.58	9.1
27 Tues	11.29	8.9	23.55	8.5
28 Wed			12.29	8.3
29 Thur	00.57	8.1	13.36	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Porthcawl woman and Bridgend care home nominated for awards at Age Cymru ceremony

A PORTHCAWL woman and a Bridgend care home have been shortlisted for national awards for improving the lives of older people.

Eileen Torkington from Porthcawl is in line for the 'Age Cymru Volunteer Award', sponsored by Wales & West Utilities, while Bridgend's Foxtroy House Care Home is nominated for the 'My Home Life Cymru Award'

Age Cymru presents awards each year to groups or people who have a made an outstanding contribution to older people's lives.

Age Cymru's chief executive Ian Thomas explained: "The purpose of the Age Cymru Awards is to celebrate and recognise the outstanding contributions that groups and individuals make towards improving the lives of older people across Wales.

"We've had nominations from around the country for this year's awards and the standard has been very high.

"I'd like to congratulate Eileen and Foxtroy House Care Homes on their nominations and wish them the best of luck."

Age Cymru will be announcing the winners of the Age Cymru Awards at its gala dinner and awards ceremony at the Cardiff Hilton on Friday, February.

For tickets to this event, which will be hosted by comedian and broadcaster Chris 'Korkey' Corcoran, contact the Age Cymru fundraising team on 029 2043 1555.

COUNCIL AIMS TO SELL OFF VACANT LAND IN PEN y FAI

CABINET members from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have agreed to the disposal of vacant land to the south of All Saints Way in Pen y Fai, which will now be put up for sale to potential developers.

However, they reassured residents that any development on the 2.8 acres of land will not result in a 'rat run' through-road between All Saints Way and Clos Smyrna, and a public footpath that runs through the site will remain.

Coun Mike Gregory, the council's cabinet member for resources, explained: "The site was cleared last year to assess its potential for development, and we have agreed that it should now be sold.

"The land is currently bound by houses on three sides and a topographical survey has identified that there would be scope for a development that could have two access points – one from the north and one from the south – but that they should not be linked by a through road.

"I know that there were many concerns when this potential land sale was first advertised in the autumn that any development would have the effect of creating a new main road between the top and bottom of the village, and I would like to reassure residents that this will not be the case.

"Also, the public footpath that runs through the site will remain, although it may be subject to a slight realignment if required. Any development of the site will be subject to the usual rigorous planning application process which will consider all highway, traffic and access issues as well as an ecology survey and assessment."

Work to clear the site and cut back growth was undertaken last year, with a buffer zone of scrub habitat retained around the edge of the site offering foraging opportunity for species such as bats.

These works were undertaken in consultation with the council's countryside management officer and ecologist, as well as Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Police's wildlife liaison officer.

It is proposed that the site will now be advertised, with bids invited by tender.

Inspection body will monitor Maesteg school

STAFF and pupils at Garth Primary School in Maesteg have been given a positive report by the schools inspection body Estyn, a council spokesperson has stated.

In a report considered by the cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) this week, Estyn said that many pupils made suitable progress in relation to their starting points, that their attainment had improved, and that nearly all pupils behaved well.

Estyn said that headteacher Julie Thomas was providing strong, purposeful leadership, the senior leadership team supported her very effectively, and the governing body was carrying out its role as a "critical friend" efficiently.

The report also said that the school's self-evaluation process was accurate, that planning for improvement had successfully raised standards, and that it was benefiting significantly from its network of effective partnerships.

Teaching was deemed to be good in most classes, and the curriculum provided a range of stimulating activities. The school provided a good level of care, support and guidance and a high level of targeted support for pupils with additional learning needs, Estyn said.

Inspectors noted that the school provided a happy and caring environment for learners, which was inclusive and encouraged all pupils to achieve well. The school also successfully promoted childrens' rights and all areas had good quality resources.

The report included recommendations to raise the attainment of boys, to raise standards in Welsh in key stage 2, and to improve pupils' ability to use numeracy skills.

The school – which will be monitored by Estyn – has also been recommended to raise levels of attainment for pupils who are eligible for free school meals, and to improve attendance.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "It is particularly pleasing to read all the very positive features identified by Estyn at the school including the high and rising standards, the good teaching standards, the very good pupil behaviour and the progress of those with additional learning needs.

"I have every confidence in the school successfully addressing the recommendations that Estyn has made and that the outcomes for pupils which are already very good will continue to improve at Garth Primary School."

Cefn Cribwr man is back in jail, after just 16 days

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A householder bravely detained a man who broke into part of his home, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Barry Coombes later told the police he was "shocked and unnerved" and concerned for the safety of his family, said prosecutor Lowri Wynn Morgan.

Aaron Lidden (22) of Heol Castell, Cefn Cribwr, was jailed for 16 months, after he pleaded guilty to a charge of burgling premises in the same road with intent.

Ms Wynn Morgan said that on December 17, at about 9.40pm, Mr Coombes heard a noise in his garage, went in and saw Lidden.

He was holding a screwdriver, appeared drunk, and said: "I'm running away from a man who is going to beat me up."

Mr Coombes detained Lidden and called the police.

Lidden was said to have convictions for 31 offences, 13 for theft and others for possessing an offensive weapon, and causing actual bodily harm.

He had been released from a prison sentence on December 1, said Ms Wynn Morgan.

His solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "In the light of the aggravating features, he realises he is in a difficult position. A mitigating feature is that he didn't enter the house. He has serious issues with drugs and alcohol."

Recorder Greg Bull QC told him: "Burglary is always regarded as serious by the courts. It is an offence, not only against property, but against the householder.

"You have an appalling record and I appreciate you have a drink and drugs problem. You were drunk on that night, but it is no excuse."

SCOUTS DRAW

PORTHCAWL Art society invited Cornelly Scouts over to the gallery at the old police station in Johns Street, Porthcawl and gave them instruction in drawing, painting with pastels and watercolour.

The Scouts then did their own work using the skills that had been demonstrated to go towards their merit badge.

Planting success at Cwm Calon

STUDENTS studying BTEC L1 interactive media at Maesteg campus recently enjoyed a morning planting bulbs for adults with learning difficulties.

Cwm Calon Day Care Centre thanked the students with hot tea and coffee, after a successful morning of litter picking and bulb planting donated by the town council.

"It's good that the young people are happy to come along to help improve the gardens of Cwm Calon," said Alan Pearson of Maesteg Community Gardening Project.

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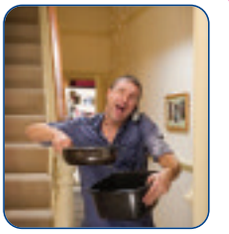
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Who wants to build what and where?

Celtic Recycling Ltd – **Land adjacent Unit 107, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – Relax condition 7 of P/12/10/FUL relating to the removal of long term monitoring and maintenance plan.
Mr Mike Mordecai – **Ashfield House, All Saints Way, Pen y Fai** – Crown reduction to Ash tree (1996) OBC No 01.
Savills – **Cefn Glas sub station, Merlin Crescent, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – Proposed base station installation upgrade at cellsite.
BCBC Conservation and Design – **Pilots Lookout, Porthcawl Harbour, Porthcawl** – Repairs and reinstatement works to lookout tower.
Mr Antony Sewel – **54 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed** – Non material amendment to approved application P/14/150/FUL.
Ms Alison Mawby – **KPC Youth, Pyle Inn Way, Pyle** – Construction of replacement community building.
Mr Paul Ryall – **Rear of 38 Coychurch Road, Pencoed** – Erection of four detached dwellings.
Mr Stephen Edwards – **The former Clinic, Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer** – Change of use from former clinic to two-bedroomed dwelling; no external changes proposed to existing building.
BCBC Conservation and Design – **Customs House, Porthcawl Harbour, Porthcawl** – Repair building to replace stones, repointing, re-roofing and replace windows and doors.
Bank of Ireland – 61 Heol Fach, North Cornelly – Illuminated advertising collar around a proposed ATM; installation of ATM to front glazing of shop.
Ms Denise Lodge – **262 New Road, Porthcawl** – Convert and extend double garage to form new granny flat.
Gareth Roberts – **11 Penybont Road, Pencoed** – Relax condition 1 of P/09/396/FUL to permit use as micropub; opening hours 7.30am-11pm, Monday to Saturday.
Mr M Waldron – **Land rear Tairwaun Place, Maesteg** – Proposed agricultural building.
Dovey Group – **Parc Plaza, Waterton Cross, Bridgend** – Change use/subdivision of building from 2 x A3 units to 3 x A3 units with elevation and external amendments.
Mr Gareth Jarvis – **Moorings, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl** – Side extension for games room at ground floor and bedroom above with front balcony, new rear dormer and internal alterations.

Lifeboat volunteers impress on the casualty care course

IN a positive start to the new year, 13 volunteers at Porthcawl lifeboat attended the station and passed the RNLI's Casualty Care course run by staff instructor Grant Walkey from the institution's Poole headquarters.

Each candidate attended the 24 hours of training spread over a two-week period; some were able to complete daytime sessions while others attended during the evening due to work commitments.

The RNLI states that casualty care is a crucial link in the search and rescue (SAR) chain of survival that allows lifeboat crews to save lives at sea.

Casualties have to be treated and kept alive, often in an unforgiving hostile environment, frequently isolated from assistance until they can be handed over to professional help.

Grant told crew: "The course focuses on effective hands-on treatment, rather than complex theory or diagnosis and empowers rescuers to confidently treat casualties.

"Maritime SAR medicine is a specialised field and the RNLI now has a unique bespoke course that prepares lifeboat crews to manage the situations that are encountered in the operational environment.

"During the training, each attendee has to pass both a written and a practical scenario to demonstrate their individual skills.

"Attendees here at Porthcawl have been amazing in their approach to the learning process and highly skilled in its application."

Porthcawl Lifeboat Operations Manager, Philip Missen MBE, said: "This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our station opening and this is a great start to our special year.

"We are indebted to the dedication and commitment to training shown by our volunteers and congratulate each attendee in passing this intense course."

IAN STROUD

Message in a bottle for the Porthcawl Lifeguards!

ON January 9, Mr Steve Gillet, president of the Porthcawl United Services Club presented a cheque for £500 to Mr Chris Hughes, of Porthcawl Lifeguards.

The money was raised from donations collected in a charity bottle (gallon bottle) in the lounge bar and members and guests deposited loose change in it.

During every Bank Holiday weekend the committee donated the highest amount of raffle money raised over a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night.

"Members of the committee would like to thank all who contributed to raising this tremendous amount of money to help our Porthcawl Lifeguards," said spokesperson Hayley Williams.

Thanksgiving service for centre

AT 3pm on Sunday, February 1, at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, a thanksgiving service will be held by the Rector, the Rev Canon Philip Masson, to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tôn Kenfig.

All are invited to attend and join in celebrating with the centre's founder, Sister Gwyneth Poacher, MBE, SRN.

Not only is everyone welcome to attend the thanksgiving service, but all are invited along after the service to the centre.

Visitors will be made welcome by Sister Gwyneth and her team of volunteers and served with teas, coffees, cakes and pastries by the Sandville students.

The event will be brought to a more than satisfactory conclusion by trustee Arthur Beale, who on behalf of the Twelfth Night Committee, will present a cheque to Sister Gwyneth to help support the centre from the proceeds taken at the fancy dress ball in the Hi Tide on Saturday, January 10.

WI members curled up with laughter!

FOLLOWING a warm welcome and best wishes for the new year, Coychurch WI president Sandra Davidson addressed a well-attended meeting.

Details were given of forthcoming events. Suggestions were also needed for an in-house activity/event to celebrate the centenary of the WI movement.

A thank you letter was received from MIND regarding the donation following the recent coffee morning; items were highlighted from the GFWI newsletter; and ballot slips for this year's Resolutions were collected.

Members enjoyed a light buffet before taking part in a curling session divided into blue or red teams, with four players in each team. The shiny hall floor replicated the ice! Team 2 Red were the winners.

EVENTS

February 3: Monthly meeting; topic of guest speaker, 'Five boys and a pasty', 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial hall.

February 21: Darts competition at Llanharry Workingmen's Club; **February 28**: Taste of Wales at Llanharry Workingmen's Club. For further details on events, contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.

On **January 13**, members enjoyed their post-Christmas dinner on a very blustery and stormy evening in Porthcawl.

The monthly meeting has reverted to the usual time and evening. New members and guests always welcome to come along. **JJ**

Local man Mervyn becomes president of historic club

A COWBRIDGE man has been appointed president of what must be Wales' largest local sporting organisation – Cardiff Athletic Club.

Mervyn GB Warfield has lived in Cowbridge for 42 years and ran Hollwars, which sold men's clothing and schoolwear in the High Street until he retired 10 years ago.

Now, after 56 years association with the club – 19 as a playing member and 37 on various committees – he has reached the summit as president, taking over from Dr CD Williams, who sadly died just before Christmas.

He said: "Cardiff Athletic Club embraces the clubs of Cardiff rugby, cricket, hockey, bowls and tennis."

As one might expect from a capital city, each of these sports attracts a large number of members, so Cardiff Athletic Club sits at the top of a pyramid containing thousands of individual sportsmen.

In rugby, the Blues region is a separate entity, of course, but all the other Cardiff RFC teams come under the stewardship of Cardiff Athletic.

Similarly, although Glamorgan Cricket Club operates independently, the Athletic oversees all the men's cricket teams, and a youth team which is pivotal in bringing through young talent.

Mervyn Warfield played rugby in his youth, but for most of his time with Cardiff Athletic Club his chosen sport was hockey.

When he started serving on the club's administrative bodies, his first post, in 1977, was on the management committee. He eventually became chairman of that committee in 1998 – staying in that role for nine years.

He became a trustee and vice-president of the club, and was also chairman of the house committee. In addition, he was chairman of the ground committee, which used to look after Sophia Gardens, before it became the home of Glamorgan Cricket Club.

The Cardiff Athletic Club has a long history and has always been crucial to the development of Welsh sport.

The club was heavily involved in negotiations that saw the Millenium Stadium built in the town centre, and oversaw the transfer of Glamorgan Cricket Club to its new home in Sophia Gardens.

There may not be any massive developments planned in the immediate future, but Mr Mervyn Warfield's time as president is sure to be very interesting!

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: Mervyn Warfield from Cowbridge, is the new president of Cardiff Athletic Club.

Nantymoel Amateur Boxing Club aims to turn around lives with 'Sport Enchance'

NANTYMOEL Amateur Boxing Club, which was founded in 2010 by ex-amateur champion Dean Morgan, is setting up a programme called 'Sport Enchance' to help turn around the lives of young offenders.

The idea is that a disciplined boxing regime will provide young offenders with a positive, new path to follow and make them more confident.

Dean Morgan said latest government statistics for young re-offending are spiralling upwards.

"I firmly believe my programme will succeed by offering youngsters a chance to change their outlook and develop into positive role models.

"I have worked with young offenders for approximately 15 years in different gyms and the turnaround is nothing short of amazing."

Dean said the only other programme similiar to his throughout the UK is one based in Glasgow and run by ex-boxer Bradley Welsh.

"He has expanded his gym operation to run five other gym projects in the city due to the over-whelming success the programme achieved."

Dean says the benefits of boxing training are well documented. One youth called Alan, who was constantly involved in local crimes such as drugs and arson, turned things round, and won three Welsh vests, became a Southern Division Welsh representative and is now club captain in Dean's gym.

"He is now in a long-term relationship and employed as a care worker – his life has changed for the better."

Dean emphasises that the one phrase that is most commonly used in the gym is 'Discipline and respect'.

"I have turned around a number of offenders over the years and seen them respect others, live settled lives, find jobs and have proper relationships in their lives."

Dean and club members believe the programme can divert troubled youngsters from a life of crime.

"What I am looking to do is create a referral system to all borough solicitors and courts for first or second offenders to be given the option of using the gym as a discipline and correctional tool, as opposed to a custodial sentence.

"They are more likely to knuckle down to a regimented training regime than to accept a sentence where the cost to the government and other offender teams are a constant burden."

The club's gym is situated in the heart of the Ogmore Valley, occupying the old 'belt club'.

Dean explained: "Having started coaching in the early '90s in various rooms at boys and girls' clubs in Nantymoel, Wyndham and Bettws, we outgrew each location due to the increase in member numbers.

"A lot of the members we have in our gym have been or are being bullied in school.

"We work 'one on one' with these vulnerable kids and after careful management we see excellent results in both their confidence and positive outlook."

Apart from the social benefits it delivers, the club has also considerable achievements in boxing competitions.

"Since forming Nantymoel Boxing Club, we have had a good measure of success, coming from both junior and senior boxers.

"In the 2010/11 season we gained our first Welsh senior champion. In the 2011/12 season, we gained another novice champion and Welsh representative, and also had three boxers in the finals of various championships, with Alan Harry and Brendon Pickering picking up Welsh titles, and Kai Durston narrowly losing a very close contest.

"We recently had our best season, with Alan Harry picking up another Welsh novice title at 57kg, while Brendon Pickering and Kai Durston entered the Welsh Open Championships and, though both narrowly lost on close points decisions, the club was very proud of all our boxers' achievements.

"Our most promising young boxer is Kai Owens, who has won five bouts, and only narrowly lost in the novice championship final.

"Another member is an outstanding three-star international referee and judge, Mark Williams, who recently gained his AIBA first class honour and is regularly the outstanding official at tournaments. He travels around the world for the top amateur tournaments."

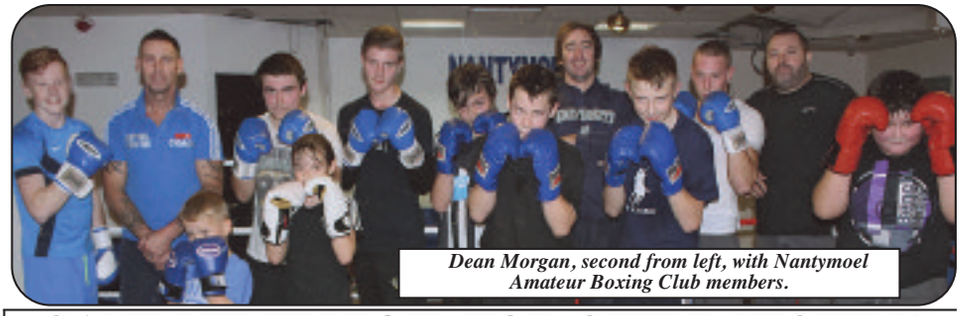
Classes run four evenings a week with sessions starting at 5pm and running until 7.30pm for young beginners, eager starters and for all senior and open class boxers.

Dean added: "We also run a ladies' boxfit class, which is proving very popular. We are lucky to have the help of assistant coaches in Kenny Owens, and full coaches Gareth Davies, Mark Williams and Mike Richards. I oversee all club developments as head coach and manager."

So what is Dean's dream?

"We are currently in the process of seeking funding to purchase the club outright and fully refurbish it to provide the whole valley with a purpose built fitness centre, open to all activities."

If people are keen to contact Dean, telephone 07572 864843 or email him on nantyboxing@hotmail.com."



Dean Morgan, second from left, with Nantymoel Amateur Boxing Club members.

CANDLELIT VIGIL FOR CHILD VICTIMS

WHEN Bridgend Soroptimists met on January 14 for their first business meeting of 2015 at the Heronston Hotel, they began the evening with a candlelit vigil for the victims of the recent brutal attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, and in support of an end to violence against schoolchildren worldwide.

For more information about Soroptimist International, check out the SIGBI website and following the links to Wales South Region for our local activities.

How many loos do the public need?

RESIDENTS across Bridgend county borough are being invited to have their say on the future of public toilet provision, as the council attempts to make £50m of savings over the next few years.

A consultation has been launched into the future of the 13 council-owned public toilets, their operating hours and staffing arrangements.

As part of the discussion, groups representing elderly and disabled service users are being asked for their views, along with the Citizens' Panel, Equalities Panel and town and community councils.

Because of cuts to public service funding, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) says that it needs to review the number of toilets it operates. Any proposals to close or amend the operating arrangements for public toilets will take into account the views of the community and users of the public conveniences.

The consultation period began on Monday, January 12, and will close on Monday, March 9. Respondents can get in touch or ask further questions by calling 01656 643664 or emailing *Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk*.

Alternatively, views can be given online or by writing to Communications, Marketing and Engagement, BCBC, Raven's Court, Wing 3, Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "Public toilets are an important service that we have operated for many years, and the cabinet has not come to this decision lightly.

"However, we have to make £50m of savings over the next few years, and that means being absolutely realistic.

"Any decision on the future of public conveniences is subject to full consultation – everyone will be given an opportunity to have their say.

"I would urge as many people as possible to get involved so that their views are heard."

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Major changes are planned as BCBC puts its trust in new culture set-up

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

A HUGE change in the way BCBC runs a number of services is planned, with a considerable number of staff transferring to a new organisation.

Libraries, community centres, arts, and venues including Bryngarw House and Park and the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl are all to be run by a new charitable 'Cultural Trust' which will be set up by Bridgend County Borough Council later this year.

At a recent BCBC cabinet meeting, it was decided to establish a 'Not for Profit Distributing Organisation' (NPDO) from October 1 this year, for an initial period of 20 years.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The new organisation, which will follow the model of a 'Charity Company Limited by Guarantee', will have charitable status, gain from tax advantages, and have the freedom to operate more commercially.

"It will also have access to external grants that aren't available to councils, and may find it easier to attract donations, sponsorship and volunteers."

The services will be run by the NPDO in partnership with the council, similar to the way that Halo Leisure Ltd operates local leisure centres.

As a commissioner of the services, the council will set the "strategic direction" for the services and will have a say on a number of aspects, including opening hours and activity programmes, while some price changes will have to be agreed by the council.

The local authority will continue to own the buildings.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "The difficulties facing local authorities throughout Wales as a result of reduced funding from central government are resulting in us having to find new ways of delivering many council services in the long term.

"In an environment of financial savings and budget cuts, there is always a concern that there will be cutbacks that have a negative impact on services. So I am delighted at this development, which instead offers a different but bright future for cultural services.

"In our recent widespread consultation on the council's budget, this was the money-saving proposal which was most supported by local residents, with 64 per cent of respondents in favour of delivering libraries and cultural services through a not-for-profit trust.

"Our leisure centre partnership has already resulted in modernised facilities for residents to enjoy and I am sure that there will be many similar benefits for cultural services.

"Our ambition is to encourage a passion for reading and knowledge, particularly among the younger generation, and to put culture and learning at the heart of our communities."

Coun White added: "The management agreement will cover 20 years, so that the NPDO can have the time to establish itself and seek funding over a long period.

"The NPDO will benefit from adopting a commercial approach where appropriate, which the council is unable to follow due to the policy constraints placed upon it. The partnership arrangement will mean that the council will be closely involved in the development of services, and any profits will be reinvested for the benefit of the local community.

"Staff will be transferred under TUPE and will retain their same terms and conditions. Staff and trade unions will be kept fully informed throughout the transfer process.

"Trustees for the new NPDO will be recruited who have professional expertise, community and area knowledge, sector specific knowledge and commercial acumen."

The two ex-army pals behind cathedral concert

Sgt Bill Hodge (ret) 1st Btn Welsh Regiment and Capt Haydn Davies (ret) formerly Sgt Haydn Davies, South Wales Borderers.

THE story begins with the two movers and shakers behind Bridgend Male Choir's concert in Wells Cathedral concert on Friday, February 20.

Two former NCOs of Welsh regiments, Sgt (Chippy) Bill Hodge, 1st Btn The Welsh Regiment and Sgt Haydn Davies, (08) South Wales Borderers were putting the world to rights!

They first met in the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where both were Welsh and A class instructors in drill, weapon training, and tactics, and were training future officers for the British Army.

Only around 5'8" then (probably shrunk now), the two old soldiers in their prime matched the Brigade of Guards to the highest standards on the Square, in personal turnout, drill, and word of command.

Throughout his Army career, 1951 to 1969, Bill (but never referred to by this name) was known as Chippy: it was a nickname that stuck, he is still Chippy to his old comrades.

Billy Hodge retired from the military and went into the catering business near Bridgend. His friend continued his military career and went through the ranks to became RSM of the 1st Btn The Royal Regiment of Wales, ending finally as Capt Davies MTO.

In 1986, Capt Haydn Davies retired to Wells with his wife Margaret, and started an antiques business. The happy couple are now directors of Wells Reclamation, one of the biggest reclamation yards in the UK.

Around June 2014 over a few drinks, Bill Hodge masterminded and planned the advancement and campaign for the concert, saying: "It would be great if we could arrange for BMC to come back to the Cathedral".

Haydn Davies immediately responded: "Leave it to me". The organisation battle had started, and another bottle was opened.

David T Burt

Guild cheque for Blood Bikes

A BELATED happy new year from Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild, and we especially hope for a healthy one, as there has been so much illness about.

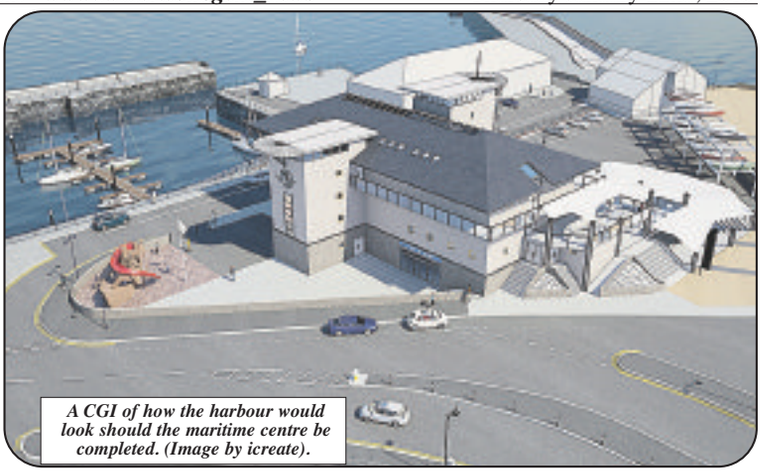
We have much to look forward to in the Guild, as February is our birthday and we will be celebrating our 61st with a luncheon at the Grove.

At this month's meeting, we presented a cheque for £150 to Julia Jelling and Gerald Pascoe from Blood Bikes, and Julia told us about the excellent voluntary work they do, so donations are much appreciated. The money was raised at our Christmas party from our sales and cards tables and donations, instead of sending Christmas cards.

Mr David Anderson gave a presentation on 'The Romantic Road'. He is always a welcome speaker and his beautiful photography started our year off well.

Our next meeting is on February 11 at 2pm, in All Saints Church Hall, when Mr Romeo Bassini will tell us about 'The Italian Connection'. That sounds intriguing, so do come along! All welcome; telephone 01656 772156.

Dorothy Thomas



A CGI of how the harbour would look should the maritime centre be completed. (Image by icreate).

Harbour project's vote of confidence

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The AM continued: "The funding will enable those with local knowledge to develop projects addressing the specific issues facing their communities. I look forward to seeing how these schemes benefit local people and support our wider regeneration vision for Wales."

Michael Clarke said: "We are absolutely delighted that Porthcawl will benefit from £297,597 to further develop the marina/harbour quarter in Porthcawl by increasing boat capacity, providing new water sports activity provision, as well as education facilities for visitors and local people."

The boat capacity will be increased by a harbourside, three-tier racking system that will take 36 boats.

ABOVE: The boat rack which has a capacity of 36 boats. (Rack designed by BDML, image by icreate).

The grant cash will pay for this structure, together with the lifting gear which will winch a boat out of the harbour so it can be placed securely in the rack.

Michael Clarke continued: "This is a huge vote of confidence in 'community led' regeneration and in our ambitions to develop Jennings Building and the proposed maritime centre into a high quality integrated harbour quarter.

"We are most grateful to Coastal Communities Fund, BCBC's communities team, Bic-innovation and local organisations for their generous support and for their courage in supporting us."

Fellow director Stuart Bentley said: "This funding will enable us to create new jobs and support the expansion of existing employment, and the development of new leisure and educational businesses operating in the marina and harbour area.

"New equipment will include launch and retrieval facilities to enable boats to be lifted out of the water plus a range of coastal educational facilities."

This project has been supported by the Community Economic Development (CED) programme delivered in partnership by a six valleys local authority consortium of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhonda Cynon Taff and Torfaen.

The CED programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government; Big Lottery Awards for All and WCVA.

Three-year jail sentence

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Warren continued: "It was a reconnaissance, and she became suspicious of their activities."

Jamie Ball came in shortly after, carrying a baseball bat and said: "Give me the cash."

His brother came in afterwards and shouted: "Give him the money."

She handed over a £20 note, and at the time, was very frightened.

"Fortunately, a delivery driver arrived and heard Mrs Singh screaming. The pair fled and got into a car."

The registration number was taken and given to the police, who stopped it in Tondu.

The bat was in the car.

"There was obvious planning and the victim was targeted," said Mr Warren.

Jamie Ball told the police: "I need help to get off the mephedrone. I took the £20 note."

His brother later made admissions and said each was spending £40 a day on the drug.

The £20 was recovered.

Jamie Ball was said to have convictions for 28 offences, including theft, possessing drugs, burglary, possessing an offensive weapon, causing damage, assault, harassment and causing a breach of the peace.

Julian Ball had convictions for 13 offences including burglary, causing damage, possessing drugs and threatening to cause damage.

Ieuan Bennett, for Jamie Ball, said: "At one time, he was living in his car. He bitterly regrets his involvement. He is a prime example of the misuse of drugs. Today he is a much-changed man."

Adam Sharp, for the second defendant, said: "There is genuine remorse and he has never shown a propensity for violence. It was an amateurish offence and the victim knew him.

"He didn't have the weapon himself and clearly both men were under the influence of drugs. He too had once been homeless."

Ugandan link for local school

MEMBERS of the Eco Club at St Clare's School in Porthcawl recently planted two apple trees in the school grounds, as part of a twinning programme between schools in Wales and Uganda.

The trees will link the St Clare's with Mgibi Primary School in Uganda, where a third tree will be planted.

The tree-planting project has been organised by Size of Wales, an environmental charity which is protecting and sustaining an area of tropical forest the size of our nation.

The scheme plants two trees for every child born or adopted in Wales; one in Wales and another in Uganda.

Year-1 class teacher Miss Jones and her eager Eco-Club were thrilled when we were asked to take part, and despite the temperamental weather conditions were eager to roll up their sleeves and don their wellies to get digging. They then planted two Bardsey Island apple trees, which produce the rarest type of apples in the world.

Pupils in the Prep School at St Clare's have been enjoying the link that has been set up between their school and Mgibi Primary.

The Porthcawl pupils recently received letters from some teachers in Uganda which explained more about their day-to-day school life, and will soon be sending replies telling them all about the apple trees.

Nigel Little, education outreach officer for Size of Wales, said: "We're really excited for the pupils at St Clare's to watch this tree grow and start a conversation with pupils in Uganda about how their tree is growing.

"This in time will give both sets of pupils a greater appreciation of each other's lives." **JH**

Your chance to share community news...

Tondu Primary School

SUSAN PILSHER the headteacher invites carers and friends of children in Miss Davies' class Ogwr to join the class assembly on January 30 at 10.20am.

Everyone will be welcome to stay afterwards for a 'linger and learn session' with your child.

The following pupils attained 100 per cent attendance last term:

Mrs Ashton's class Afan: Jamie Dalton, Dewi Galtry, Oscar Humphries, Laila Jones, Imogen Lewis, Hayden Painter, Ashton Simmonds, Elise Williams.

Mrs Jones/Mrs Goldsworthy's class Cynffig: Jack Eastwood, Leon Elliott, Rhys Hopkins, Grace Liu, William Ockwell-Bowen, Isaac Reardon, Zachary Ward.

Mrs Richards/Mrs Goldsworthy's class Ewenni: Grace Oram, Jack Wang, Elliott Zhang.

Mrs Pugh's class Garw: Iestyn Galtry, Rhydian Galtry, Erin Marshall, Anwen Thomas, Ben Thomas.

Mr Thomas' class Llynfi: Noah Barry, Levi Harry, Sam Thomas, Annabel Ward.

Miss Davies' class Ogwr: George Barry, Tiffany Chen.

Miss Hopkins' class Rhondda; Madeleine Allen, Josie Chan, Chase Johnston, Gracie Jones, Tamzin Williams.

Miss Jones' class Taf: Rhys Baker, Evie Higgins, Jorja Higgins, Molly Price, Owain Thomas, Cariad Westlake, Logan Young.

Mr Lewis' class Usk: Tegan Chambers, Frazer Marshall.

She is also pleased to congratulate the following children who had full marks with their homework:

Mrs Jones/Mrs Goldsworthy: Leon Elliott, Cariad Evans, Maddie Flower, Aidan Hall, Rhys Hopkins, Seth Jenkins, Grace Liu, Loveday Lock, Lily Parfitt, Isaac Reardon, Jack Rose, Harley-Seren Terry, Finley Williams.

Mrs Richards/Mrs Goldsworthy's class Ewenni: Evan Dare, Ben Featham, Abigail Jones, Logan Kinsman, Lily Lewis, Jenson Mathews, Harri Reardon, Jayden Reeves.

Mrs Pugh's class Garw: Dewi Castling, Cerys Fisher, Lewis Flanagan, Iestyn Galtry, Rhydian Galtry, Owain Hopkins, Kimberley Johns, Sion Lane, Dylan Lewis, Imogen Merrett, Madison Phillips, Summer Ruck, Anwen Thomas, Ben Thomas, Corey Thomas, Mason Walmsley, Emily Williamson.

Mr Thomas' class Llynfi: Crystal Bancroft, Noah Barry, Farai Chikadaya, Ruben Davies, Levi Harry, Brandon Hearse, Lara Morris, Elis O'Connor, Joshua Powell, Sam Thomas, Rhys Wheatley, Bobby Zziwa,

Miss Davies' class Ogwr: Cameron Baker, Angel Carey, Tiffany Chen, Lillie Eve Cronin, Jessica Evans, Isabelle Evans, Sophie Featham, Olivia Herbert, Evan Humphries, Ronnie Jones, Ieuan Lane, Maddie Rose, Fabian Tapner, Max Taylor, Emily Tuck, Callum Withey.

Miss Hopkins' class Rhondda: Josie Chan, Seren Dare, Kacey Floyd, Gracie Jones, Holly Lewis, Tegan Rampley, Sophie Tipper, Alisha Williams.

Miss Jones' class Taf: Rhys Baker, Libby Barrett, Morgane Chauvel, Leiana Mai Darks, Ellie-Mai Davies, Lauren Davies, Jonny Evans, Ben Fisher, Dylan Griffiths, Keira Hill, Connor Jones, Benji Lock, Tialeon Popham, Molly Price, Tyler Richards, Eeva Salo, Cleo Tapner.

Mr Lewis' class Usk: Lola Brown, Tegan Chambers, Thomas Chauvel, Kian Edwards, Mya-Paige Fahey, Tia Featham, Sasha Flower, Brook Hawkins, Caleb Lake, Bethanie Trebble, Jarad Young.

Aberkenfig WI

EUNICE Williams, president of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute, opened the meeting on January 14 by wishing the members happy New Year and welcoming visitor Liz.

Happy birthday was sung to Pauline Soley and Margaret Crocker, who has achieved 93 years; unfortunately, neither was able to attend because of illness.

Eunice introduced speaker Ann Mahoney, who demonstrated several different ways to fold a napkin; then it was the members' turn to produce the different styles. The members had a lot of fun trying to copy Ann's beautiful creations. Ann and her husband David walked around the hall helping the members to untangle themselves when the need arose. Ann and David joined the members for a cup of tea before making their journey home.

The winner of the competition for an embroidered item was Pat Lewis and the raffle was won by Paddy Bailey.

Aberkenfig & District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. The next meeting will be on February 11 when the speaker will be Gayney Jones whose subject is 'Love Quilts'. There will be a sales table and the competition will be 'A Piece of Pottery'.

For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit www.cobwebs.com.

Residents in the Aberkenfig and district area may wish to attend the funeral of Edith Evans, formerly of Meadow Street, Aberkenfig, at St John's Church tomorrow (Friday, January 23 at 2.30pm. Edith was not only the founder member of Aberkenfig and district but was closely involved with the community at large.

Laleston Gardening Club

THE club invites members of the public to a talk by Sheena Crossley, who will be recounting her experiences when planting 'annuals, biennials, and bedding plants'.

It will take place on February 9 at 7.30pm in the Grade II-listed Cliff Cottage, High Street (adjacent to Laleston parish church). Entry will be £1.

The club has a thriving ladies section which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the same venue at 7.30pm; new members are always welcome.

The committee at the club would like to thank members of the local community for the support it received in 2014 at all its events.

40th concert

COR Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) is holding its 40th annual concert at Maesteg Town Hall on January 31 at 7pm.

Its musical director Rhian Jenkins, with the assistance of pianist Ryan Wood, will be conducting the choir, with compere for the evening BBC presenter Beverley Humphreys and guest artists Cantare (Angharad Morgan and tenor David Fortey). They started singing together in 2001, when they both studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Tickets are £8 available from Rob on 07969 203251, John on 07429 637068 and Maesteg Town Hall.

Maesteg Town Hall

LAST Saturday, I had the pleasure of listening to the heats of the competition organised by the Maesteg Gleemen, in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council.

The competition is intended to foster young talent and encourage the performance of classical music by young vocalists.

The heats started at 10.30am and finished at 6pm. The event had the largest number and quality of competitors it had ever achieved. I do not envy the adjudicators of Beverley Humphreys, Alun Hodges, Suzanne Hodges and Brian Payne in trying to choose the winners of each section.

The quality was so high in the 19 to 26-year-old section I should think they are still debating who will take part in the finals at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, March 28.

Competitors came from London, Manchester and north Wales. In fact, one competitor, Heulen Gwynn Cynfal, had driven from north Wales. Setting off in the snow, it had taken four and three quarter hours and she was late arriving for her slot in the competition, and just managed to take the final place in the heats.

In the 11 to 14 years of age section, Matthew Daly (Bryntirion Comprehensive School), Tessa Castenera-Webber (St Clare's School, Newton), Layla Millar (Porthcawl Comprehensive School) with reserve Elys Davies (Porthcawl Comprehensive School) will now go on to the finals.

In the 15 to 18 years of age section Lucy Vinen (Porthcawl Comprehensive School), Lauren Coates (Bryntirion Comprehensive School) Anwen Angharad Dixon (Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd) go through.

The winners of the these two groups will receive the Bryan Davies trophy and a prize to the value of £500, made up as follows: £100 personal cheque and a voucher for £400 to further music education within his/her school along with a personal trophy.

The runners-up in each category will receive a personal prize of £50 and a voucher for £50 to further music education within his/her school, along with a personal trophy.

Centenary

TO commemorate the centenary of the opening of Maesteg Community Hospital, Maesteg League of Friends are organising a concert at Maesteg Town Hall on Friday, February 28.

Tickets £7 can be obtained from Linda on 01656 735988.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day

JANUARY 27 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year will also be the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

National Commemoration Day in the UK is dedicated to the remembrance of those who suffered in the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution, and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

It was first held in January 2001. The chosen date is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp by the Soviet Union in 1945, the date also chosen for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Kindertransport (children's transport) was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Britain from Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1940.

The British authorities had agreed to permit children under the age of 17 to come to Britain from Germany and annexed territories. Private citizens guaranteed to pay for each child's care, education etc.

The first Kindertransport arrived at Harwich on December 2, 1938, with 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin.

From 1938 onwards, the Nazis set up a number of concentration camps. From the start of the Second World War, these became sites for the mass murder of groups the Nazis considered to be racially inferior. For example, several hundred Dutch Jews were sent to Mauthausen in February 1941, in retaliation for a Dutch transit strike protesting against the persecution of Jews in the Netherlands.

On arrival at the camp within a few days they had all been executed. Thousands of Jews were worked to death under the policy of 'annihilation through work' during which they were starved and when unable to carry on working were dispatched to the gas chambers.

When I was a young lad, Pathe news showed pictures of prisoners being released from Belsen camp, the horror of which is still impressed on my mind. There were 40,000 prisoners at the camp in April 1945, and Belsen was the first camp liberated by the Allies. Allied soldiers were deeply shocked by the sight of atrocities carried out on prisoners.

During the Holocaust it was estimated that 11 million people were killed, six million of whom were Jews, approximately two thirds of all Jews living in Europe. The Nazis built six extermination camps Chelmo, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz and Majdanek. Auschwitz was the largest of these camps and it is believed that 1.1 million people were killed there.

TRACTORS TAKE A TOUR AROUND THE BOROUGH ON CHARITY RUN

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

LAST Sunday (January 18) tractors from all over the Vale and Bridgend county borough were out and about on a charity run.

More than 80 vehicles turned out for the event, which was organised by the Glamorgan Iron Horse Society. Members of the Tractor Boys of Aberthin also supported the day.

The tractors met at Tondu, before travelling around the area, finally finishing at the Prince of Wales public house in Maudlam.

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Twelfth Night revellers help out popular charity

Photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN

LAST week's GEM included a report on the annual Twelfth Night fundraising event at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, which raised funds for the Sandville Self-Help Centre.

Lack of space meant that it was not possible to include as many of the imaginative fancy dress efforts as we would have liked, so we are delighted to print some more!

Historic house could be a 'hub' for Bridgend

ABOVE: St John's House, Newcastle Hill.

ST JOHN'S HOUSE, Bridgend, is one step closer to becoming a central community hub in Bridgend, after receiving a £69,000 development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

This initial grant will enable St John's House Trust, formed in 2012 with the sole purpose of purchasing the historic Bridgend Grade II* listed building, to develop their plans to transform it into a key community and heritage hub.

Plans for the project include training up to 80 volunteers, working with local schools and community groups, interactive displays and the creation of a tea shop.

Jennifer Stewart, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales, said: "Bridgend is one of HLF's key development areas in Wales and we want to play our part, not only in protecting the local heritage there, but also to help create sustainable community centres for future generations.

"St John's House Trust is aiming to ensure this historic building becomes an important, well-used facility and heritage centre in Bridgend.

"With such a long and interesting history, it is so important that buildings such as this are preserved and available for the entire community. We look forward to seeing these exciting plans develop."

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First Minister replies to critics of Welsh NHS

Cancer drug fund: why Wales has opted for a different approach

by CARWYN JONES AM

THERE'S been a lot of discussion over the last few months comparing the NHS in Wales and England, particularly with regard to cancer – *so let's look at the facts*.

If you live in Wales, you have £10 per head more spent on your cancer care than in England. You are also more likely to be seen within target treatment times. You will have faster access to approved drugs. You will see a state-of-the-art, brand new cancer treatment centre being built at Velindre over the next few years.

Much of the debate has concentrated on the cancer drugs fund in England, which we don't have in Wales – but there are rational reasons for this. In both England and Wales, there is a body called the National Institute for Care and Health Excellence (NICE), which looks at new drugs and decides whether they are value for money; does their cost justify their effectiveness for certain conditions? Some drugs are approved for use in the NHS, but some are turned down.

In England, it's possible for these non-approved drugs to be funded via the cancer drugs fund.

However, England has just introduced a new value for money element there as well, which defeats the whole object of the fund.

In Wales, we have another body, called the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group, which evaluates new medicines that haven't been through the NICE process for use in the NHS.

People can also apply for funding for drugs for any condition, not just cancer, which aren't available on the NHS through the IPFR system.

The problem with the English system is that in the past, companies whose drugs were rejected as too expensive often came back with a lower price.

That discipline is no longer there, so the price of cancer drugs is higher than it should be. It also discriminates against people with other serious conditions, such as MS or heart disease, who can't get access to drugs in the same way.

Sadly, the drugs funded through England's fund are not life-saving drugs. For some people, it's true to say their lives might be extended – sometimes for weeks, sometimes more. Those drugs can also be funded in Wales under the IPFR process, according to a person's circumstances.

These are always difficult decisions. In England, they've focused on drugs; we focus on treatment and speed of access to treatment.

We know from the events of the last few weeks that Whitehall is in no position to lecture us on the NHS after the various emergencies declared in English hospitals, which I take no satisfaction from.

We've also seen the Prime Minister plead that the English NHS shouldn't be a political football, while kicking the Welsh NHS all over the park.

The NHS deserves an honest approach. There is greater and greater demand and we, as a society, need to think about how we fund it and what our expectations should be. London politicians attacking the Welsh NHS undermines that approach.

THE WINTER BEES KEEP QUEEN ALIVE

NOT a lot of external activity – the very changeable weather means that bees cannot get out as much as they would like to.

Remember that honeybees do not hibernate, if temperatures are around 10˚C or above, they do become active and will leave the hive on short cleansing flights (toilet requirements). However, reports of spring flowers already beginning to show will see more bee excursions if dry spells come along.

We may not notice it but the days are getting longer. The double figure temperatures that are not the norm for January can easily trigger a Queen bee to start laying in an attempt to produce new young bees to replace the overwinter bees that are now some months old.

The winter bees are the longest lived because they are not out foraging, or building comb, or tending to the myriad of tasks that spring and summer bees have to contend with.

Their job is to keep the Queen alive and this is achieved thanks to the stores that their now dead sisters provided to get a colony through the winter months; these winter bees will start to die off simply because they are old.

How old is old? Well summer bees will be lucky to live six weeks because of the demands of an expanding colony i.e. hive temperature to control, eggs to tend, larvae that has developed from eggs to feed, nectar and pollen has to be gathered and stored etc.

Our winter bees do work to control the temperature in the hive (by shivering) but because their workload is much less demanding, their lifespan is greater.

Along with other beekeepers, I am visiting the apiaries under my control to check the weight of the hives and to look for bees that are venturing out and letting me know that I still have live bees. The weight assessment is done by simply going to the back of the hive and tilting it forward; this very rudimentary approach does give me some indication about the stores within and I can make a decision to feed or leave well alone.

At present, I am managing the following apiaries: Fonmon, Aberthaw Power Station, Cardiff training at Dyffryn Gardens and, come the spring, a new apiary will be started at Lafarge cement works in East Aberthaw.

The fact that two local industries that are often berated as polluters are putting up funds and materials to aid the survival of the honeybee, has to be applauded.

My apiary at Fonmon was established long before I went there, and the value of the honeybee to the environment has always known to the residents of the castle. Dyffryn apiary was established thanks to the then Vale Council.

It is now a National Trust property and their controllers are very keen to see beekeeping continued.

All pollinators are facing an uphill struggle; it is up to those who can make a difference to do so.

Swarming bees kept beekeepers busy last year.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Sunday, January 25 at 10am, Llanbedr-y-Fro/Peterston Super Ely (seven miles), starting at the Sportsman's Rest pub car park.

Also on Sunday, January 25 at 2pm, 'Coast, lakes and railway', starting at Penarth cliff top car park. On Wednesday, January 28 at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, January 29 at 10am, 'Fore!'(seven miles), starting at the Red Lion pub car park, Pendoylan.

Charity run to support hospice

ON Sunday, March 8, hundreds of runners will be supporting George Thomas Hospice Care's charity 5K Fun Run, this year sponsored by Watkins and Gunn Solicitors.

One of the joggers taking part will be Rachel Jones, whose father was cared for by the hospice.

Rachel, who recently ran the Cardiff Half Marathon, wanted to do even more for the care centre. She said: "The care that George Thomas Hospice gave my dad and the whole family was first class.

"Even little things such as a bereavement card meant so much. If I can take part, stay fit and give something back I'm more than happy."

The 5K run starts at Blackweir Changing Rooms at 10am and goes through Bute Park. Everybody who takes part gets a T-shirt, goody bag and medal.

It is £10 to enter and people can register by phoning George Thomas Hospice Care on 029 2052 4150 or visiting www.gthc.org.uk. Once registered, the charity will send out sponsorship forms.

www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk

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A CHANCE ENCOUNTER AT VALE SHOW UNCOVERS A FAMILY LINK

I NEVER knew Llewelin Jones. I remember my grandfather, who died in 1964, telling me that Llewelin was his elder brother.

Llewelin was one of six children born into a farming family at Blaennant Farm, Pontardawe, in the Swansea Valley.

Both my grandfather and Llewelin farmed after leaving Blaennant – my grandfather at Alltwen, Pontardawe, and Llewelin at Milford Haven. One other thing I remember being told is that both my grandfather and Llewelin were members of the Glamorgan Yeomanry in the early 1900s. As my grandfather was 80 when he died, I believe that Llewelin had died some time before this.

Back in August, I was casually strolling around the Vale of Glamorgan Show. I had planned my afternoon to attend different events and had a spare half hour before attending a presentation on the history of Hendrewennol Fruit Farm.

I came across a tent housing the Western Front Association, which I had not seen on previous visits to the show. I think it was probably there to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the World War One.

As I have always had an interest in military history, I went inside the tent and viewed the maps, medals, badges, helmets and other insignia on display. I started to talk to a gentleman named Mike, who was in charge of the displays.

He asked me whether any of my family had been involved in World War One, and I said I thought it very unlikely, since I had lost contact with my father's family many years earlier and on my mother's side, were several generations of farmers.

I then remembered the Glamorgan Yeomanry, and told Mike that both my grandfather and my great uncle, Llewelin, had been members of the Glamorgan Yeomanry in the early 1900s, but that I didn't think this could be regarded as military service.

I also told him that I still had an inscribed prize which Llewelin had won in a rifle competition organised by the Yeomanry in 1907.

Mike then told me that quite a number of the Glamorgan Yeomanry had transferred into the regular army and had served on the Western Front in France and Belgium during the war, whereupon he asked me for Llewelin's full name.

I told him Llewelin H Jones – although I didn't know what the H stood for. He also asked me for Llewelin's address. I said that I didn't really know other than he had been born at Blaennant Farm in the parish of Cilybebyll, Pontardawe.

Mike suddenly stared at me in disbelief. His eyes seemed to get bigger and his jaw dropped. In a quivering voice he said: *"I've got his war medals"*.

He then referred to a sheaf of papers he had at his side, and said: "I've been researching your great uncle's military history at the National Archives. His full name was Llewelin Hopkin Jones. He was born on July 29, 1879. He applied for transfer into the regular army on July 30, 1915. He was educated at St John's College School and Lampeter College, Cardiganshire. His application form states that he wished to serve in the Army Service Corps, Horse Transport.

"His Army service record shows that he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on November 27, 1915, promoted to Lieutenant on July 1, 1917, and to Captain on October 1, 1918. He was demobbed on November 13, 1919, to an address given as Cefn-y-Don, Elm Grove, Aberdare, south Wales"

It was now my turn to be amazed. I had difficulty in understanding that someone I had never met before that day, could have more information about a member of my family than I ever had.

I asked Mike what medals Llewelin had been awarded. He replied that Llewelin had been awarded two service medals. Apparently, Llewelin had missed out on the third service medal because he hadn't been in the army in 1914.

Mike added that he was sorry but the medals were not for sale. However, he'd be very happy to let me have photocopies of the documents he had turned up in his research.

I gave him my name and address and told him that I would send him a photograph of Llewelin and a further photograph of the inscribed prize he had won in 1907.

I was thrilled to receive photocopies from Mike a few days later. I noted that when Llewelin went to the Western Front he was a single man. On being demobbed he was stated to be married.

This to me was confirmation that he had married while he was in France because I remember that at my grandfather's funeral in 1964 Llewelin's wife, Marte, attended the cremation service together with her son Gaston.

Gaston continued the family tradition in farming. From Milford Haven he moved to a farm outside Shaftesbury in Dorset. Gaston's son still farms there today.

As I left Mike's tent at the show, he said that I'd made his day. He had certainly made mine, too.

***Footnote*:**

After World War One, three service medals were awarded. They were nicknamed Pip, Squeak and Wilfred, after three characters who appeared in a cartoon strip published in the Daily Mirror in 1919. Although Llewelin was not entitled to 'Pip', the 1914 Star, he was awarded 'Squeak' the British War Medal and 'Wilfred', the Victory Medal.

GREG LEWIS

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If you can offer Ikkle a home, call us on 01656 725219, or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend, where we have lots of lovely dogs looking for homes.

LINDA FEAGAN,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale and craft fair will be held on January 24 (10am-2pm) in Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry, in support of 10th Barry Guide.

Free entry; refreshments. Contact suzanne butcher151@btinternet.com or telepohone 07990754344/07578194913.

Tax advice

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, January 26 (9.30am to 11.30am).

WHAT'S ON

History talk

THE Rhoose & District History Society's monthly meeting will be on January 30 at 7.30pm in Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road (side entrance).

Keith Moger will give a talk on the history of Cardiff and district hospitals. All are welcome; entrance charge of £1 to cover costs.

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When it comes to design, there are plenty of options to consider. Once you've spoken to a conservatory or orangery specialist,allow time to consider the layout and how you will use your new room as well as those all-important design features, before formal plans are drawn up and submitted.

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Out and About with The GEM

Simmons steals the show as Whiplash marches to his beat

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHILE he had been a busy bit-part player for some time, it was his scene-stealing as Daily Bugle editor J Jonah Jameson in Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* films that really brought JK Simmons to the fore.

Since then, Simmons has managed to be the best thing in the majority of the films he's been in, lending support in the likes of *Juno, Burn After Reading* and many others.

Simmons is now front and centre, sharing top billing with Miles Teller in *Whiplash*, writer/director Damien Chazelle's tale of Andrew, a young drummer who enrols at a music school and finds himself under the tutelage of Fletcher (Simmons), a man who will stop at nothing to get the best out of his students, going to lengths that will either make – or break – Andrew...

We've all seen the film where a promising, unpolished talent comes under the wing of a tough, uncompromising older head; tough love turns to mutual respect and eventually everyone is happy and the credits roll. Well, *Whiplash* may appear to be that film, but delve underneath its surface and it's so much more, a study in perfecting your art form, fighting against seemingly insurmountable psychological odds, and the price of achieving your dreams – it's one of the most electrifying and thrilling films in recent memory.

The story is based on Damien Chazelle's own experiences of playing in a jazz band, and it gives him a familiarity that transfers to the screen with stylish aplomb. The script is a tauter than a snare drum, yet is loaded with depth in terms of the characters.

It's a two-hander, more or less, Andrew's eager student finding himself pushing against the irrepressible force of nature that is Fletcher, but Chazelle constantly keeps both Andrew and the audience on their toes. Just when you think you have a handle on Fletcher, the rug gets swept away, Chazelle teasing you by constantly undercutting Fletcher's 'villainy'– making you wonder who he really is and just how bad can he be.

There is an influence of *Black Swan* present here, the direction occasionally using the fever dream visuals that were used in Darren Aronofsky's study of an artist (in *Black Swan's* case, a ballerina) in mental breakdown through pushing themselves to fit into their master's whims.

Andrew goes from being prodded to being pushed but, much like Natalie Portman's Nina, never knows when, nor being willing, to quit.

Chazelle's direction is frenetic and wonderfully stylish, the use of colour and editing giving the film a mood of its own, while the drum-heavy soundtrack plays its part in establishing the atmosphere, the combination of these elements creating the film's identity incredibly well. The well-written characters aren't wasted, with both Miles Teller and JK Simmons on truly sensational form.

The latter has the showier role, Fletcher's temperament and quick-fire anger being gobbled up by the actor who seems to relish having such a juicy part to sink his teeth into.

But it's Teller who does the real heavy lifting, perfectly conveying Andrew's journey in a performance that is far less flash, but does just as good a job, Andrew's slight cockiness giving way to terror.

However, undeniably it will be Simmons' performance that will leave you shaking come the end of the film, the consistently-impressive actor finding a role that may end up becoming as quotable as Daniel Plainview in terms of single-minded, seemingly heartless men, with most of his invective hurled at anyone who dare displease him, far too foul-mouthed to reprint here; suffice to say, Simmons and Chazelle have created a band leader from hell.

That it climaxes in a manner normally befitting a sports film, as you wonder whether or not Andrew can grab a victory that may almost be pyrrhic in nature, is just another reason to admire the freshness and intensity that Chazelle brings to proceedings, as *Whiplash* is, especially for a first-time writer/director, a mesmerisingly accomplished effort.

VERDICT: A jaw-droppingly superb film, *Whiplash* will most certainly leave a lasting impact on you. First-time writer/director Damien Chazelle shows incredible promise in an assured debut, that showcases a quietly brilliant turn from Miles Teller and JK Simmons on fine, scenery (and music pupil) chewing form. A truly mesmerising and accomplished work. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Black Swan* (2010), *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2103).

See more reviews and news at hindsightfilmsblog.blogspot.co.uk.

Thingumijigs: back row; John, Irene, Sheila, David, Mic, Stephanie and Kath. Front row; Richard, Andy and Annie.

Thingumijigs, the ceilidh band with a big heart!

THE next time you enjoy an evening of live music, you may be helping other people and charities in a way you hadn't even thought about.

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That's what local ceilidh band 'Thingumijigs' do with all the money they earn from playing at ceilidhs, weddings, birthday parties, school dances, etc.

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The band take nothing in expenses. Your ticket price goes straight to charity. You listen and dance; charities benefit!

So who profited last year from the hours and hours of practice and playing? There were several lucky recipients; Velindre Cancer Care had a cheque for £410, followed by Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, who had another cheque for £350.

The rest of the £1,000 earmarked for distribution went to the Marfan Association (for sufferers of Marfan Syndrome and Overlapping Disorders), the International Tortoise Association at Sully, Ham Lane School, and the Amur Leopard and Tiger Association.

To help Thingumijigs raise even more money for charity this year, while having a great night out, come to their next ceilidh at St Donats Arts Centre on Saturday, February 7. Don't worry if you've never danced before – Pat Smith (who called for Gavin and Stacey's famous barn dance) will soon have you making the right moves!

For more information and tickets, call St Donats box office 01447 799100. **AB**

Car enthusiasts hit top gear to raise funds for charity

Bridgend MGOC chairman, Paul Bullock, presents a cheque to Gwyneth Poacher from Sandville.

MEMBERS of Bridgend MG Owners' Club made a special trip to the Sandville Self Help Centre in Porthcawl to present a cheque from its fundraising efforts throughout the year.

The local classic car club presented a cheque for £500 to Nurse Director Gwyneth Poacher MBE, which was raised from proceeds from the club's annual Cwm to Coast Run.

The run, held each June, attracts classic car enthusiasts from across the UK to take part in a fundraising road run, followed by supper at a local eatery.

Earlier in the year, a further donation of £500 was presented to the charity, making a total of £1,000 from the club's fundraising efforts in 2014.

Club chairman Paul Bullock said: "We are delighted to continue our long-standing support of Sandville Self Help Centre.

"Over the past decade, we have seen at first hand the wonderful work that the charity does for local people and their families when they are suffering from ill health.

"It is lovely to be able to combine our hobby with raising funds for a very worthwhile and much-needed local charity."

Club members visited Sandville to hear from Gwyneth and her volunteers about the current demand on the service, and see the latest facilities that Sandville can offer to local people who use the centre. **ST**

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D862:

- **£2,000: 987877**.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 246742, 725233, 438333, 779418, 228338, 510489, 371080, 935439, 688163, 253359, 664817, 968931, 551221, 195403, 299817, 504308, 246228, 434693, 635936, 340808.
- **£5:** 845789, 287389, 770677, 233885, 576365, 964530, 931611, 816750, 530409, 184916, 368014, 799754, 187254, 472996, 115654, 751629, 511522, 734350, 321008, 949393, 386999, 919115, 481224, 238000, 132258, 479121, 125377, 530262, 894353, 444867, 346428, 304667, 860740, 582530, 530009, 775572, 203695, 886596, 193342, 175572, 394389, 149649, 701281, 102103, 309809, 813143, 385395, 337601, 350847, 283594, 101674, 881654, 661961, 688294, 444343, 141249, 755229, 260798, 213190, 150666.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

What's on, and where in your area...

CAB advice

THE Citizens' Advice Bureau is holding fortnightly sessions at KPC in Pyle to give advice and help in dealing with debt, managing a budget and benefit entitlements.

To book a slot at the sessions, which run on a Thursday between 1pm and 3pm, call Alison on 01656 749219. The next sessions are: January 22, February 5 and 19 and will be running on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Art society

ON Thursday, January 29, Cowbridge Art Society starts its 2015 programme with a practical session, which will involve drawing portraits in a medium of choice.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Probus Club

LLANTRISANT Probus Club meets from 10am to 12 noon on every third Tuesday of the month at Pontyclun Rugby Club.

The programme for the next three months is as follows: January 20, talk on Welsh coal trade with France by Brian Davies; February 17, talk on criminals of the 18th century by Gavin Davies; March 17, AGM. New members welcome.

Carten bike ride

THE CARTEN bike ride is celebrating ten years supporting charities in Wales, with the 100-mile Cardiff to Tenby ride for Velindre Cancer Centre on Saturday, May 9.

Entry is now open to riders at: *www.carten100.com*.

Two Vale fundraisers praised at No 10 meeting

BARRY community champions Susan Borges and Christine Tutton met Samantha Cameron at 10 Downing Street last week, after being nominated by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

Mrs Borges is a fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and has worked for a number of years to raise money to provide care for people with terminal illnesses.

Christine Tutton is the chairperson of the RNLI Barry Dock Lifeboat fundraising branch, and has raised thousands for the organisation over many years.

Both were invited to Downing Street as part of a 'charity champions' reception which celebrated their work in the local community. Alun Cairns and Samantha Cameron heaped praise on them for their achievements.

Mr Cairns said: "Susan and Christine deserve huge credit for all of the work they have done, and I was delighted to introduce them to Samantha Cameron.

"She was extremely impressed and paid tribute to them for the work they have done.

"They give up so much of their time to help Marie Curie and the RNLI, and we in the Vale are all proud of them."

Samantha Cameron commented: "It was a privilege to meet Susan Borges and Christine Tutton from Marie Curie and the RNLI at 10 Downing Street.

"Their amazing work is changing the lives of individuals and families across Barry and it was an honour to celebrate their work at the reception for charity champions."

Susan Borges said: "It was a real honour to meet Samantha Cameron at Downing Street and to tell her about the work Marie Curie does. The organisation relies on many hardworking volunteers and I was pleased to see this recognised."

Christine Tutton added: "Samantha Cameron was very complimentary about the work we all do at the RNLI in Barry.

"Everybody in the organisation can be proud of all that they have done."

Left to right, Alun Cairns, Susan Borges, Samantha Cameron and Christine Tutton.

Volunteers grieve for RNLI stalwart John

VOLUNTEERS at Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat were saddened to hear that John Blundell hasd died on January 19.

John was instrumental in getting the RNLI to establish a lifeboat in Porthcawl and following negotiations, the station was opened in 1965.

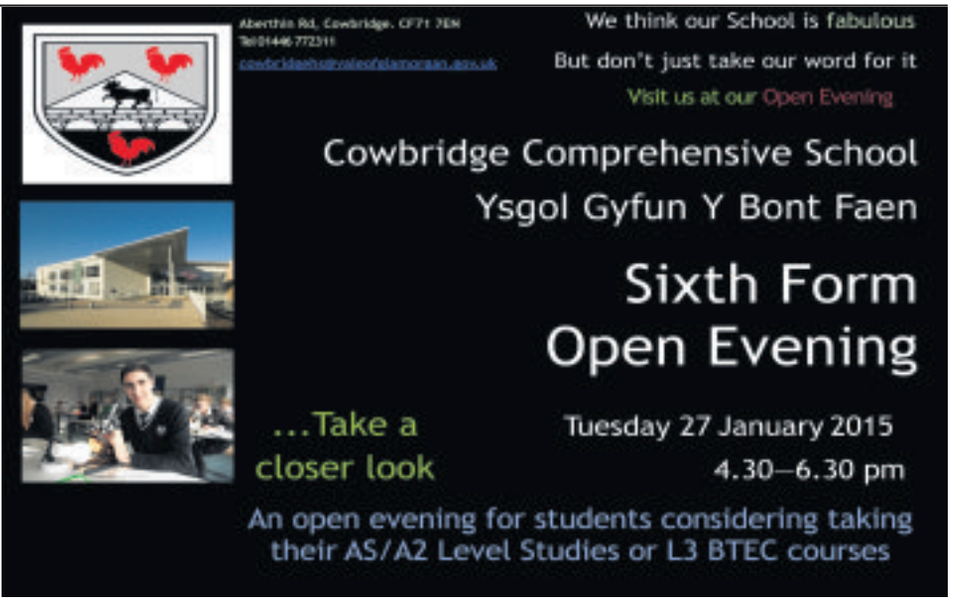
He served the station as honorary secretary, now known as lifeboat operations manager, in the early years and then station committee chairman for almost 40 years.

Philip Missen MBE, Porthcawl lifeboat operations manager said: "Our thoughts today go out to John's family. He certainly was an RNLI stalwart and would still attend the lifeboat station most Sunday mornings up until just a couple of years ago when illness prevented his visits.

"It is very sad that he will not be with us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the station opening, especially since he was the driving force and had the foresight to see the need for the RNLI to re-open a base at Porthcawl.

"That foresight has meant that our volunteers have saved many lives during those years since 1965."

IAN STROUD



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Oil4Wales Olew dros Gymru

Oil4Wales to help farmers with cashflow amid milk price wars

Local oil distributor Oil 4 Wales is helping First Milk customers by extending its payment terms to ease cashflow concerns following the announcement by First Milk to withhold milk payments to farmers.

The announcement came following a price war in leading supermarkets which has seen the price of milk fall to its lowest since 2007. In some major supermarkets a pint of milk is now as little as 22p a litre, making it cheaper than some bottled water.

The National Farmers Union and Farmers For Action have reported that the minimum price for milk that producers can survive on is 30p a litre and there is now a fear that this price war will drive many welsh farmers out of business.

It is often the case that only 50-60% of the retail price is paid to farmers, making the current market unsustainable for many farmers, which is why the number of dairy farmers has halved in just over a decade.

As part of its commitment to the farming community of Wales, family run business Oil 4 Wales has launched a new payment initiative giving farmers more time to pay their bills during this difficult time.

Oil 4 Wales supply red diesel, gas oil and kerosene to agricultural customers throughout Wales. It supplies fuels to a number of farms, small holdings and farming groups, promising a same or next day delivery and fair price.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil4 Wales, said: "We appreciate it is a difficult time for farmers with the price of milk falling and the future of dairy companies being uncertain, which is why we're keen to help in any way possible.

"As our slogan is 'working with the community, for the community' extending our payment terms is just one way we've demonstrated our commitment to the local farming community. We suggest that any First Milk customers therefore contact their local Oil 4 Wales depot to discuss their requirements further. We hope this will help Welsh farmers in the short term in a bid to ensure they have a sustainable future."

Oil 4 Wales is an independent, family run oil distribution company. The company, which supplies a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers, supplies over 35,000 customers in Wales delivered by 21 vehicles.

For more information visit www.oil4wales.co.uk and to order fuel call your local depot - Cardiff: 02920 674 910. Boiler maintenance: 0800 433 4353.

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

2015 FIXTURES

As the world's oldest rugby tournament prepares to kick-off...

Six with but a single thought – to gain an edge for RWC 2015!

Who will wear the Crown?

THE world's oldest international rugby tournament began life as the four home nations championship in 1883, became the Five Nations with the formal inclusion of France in 1910, and finally evolved into the Six Nations in 2000, when Italy was admitted to the exclusive club – which after 132 years is still going strong.

In fact, if anything on the eve of this year's opening clashes, interest is even more intense – given extra significance with the 2015 Rugby World Cup taking place on 'home soil' in the autumn.

Each of the six will aim to use the Six Nations, not only to claim the coveted championship title, but to secure a vital psychological edge over rivals they are likely to meet when the world comes to the UK.

First up on Friday, February 6, will be the renewal of a close-fought rivalry between Wales and England, who each boost 26 championship wins outright since the early days (though Wales has also shared the title 10 times).

Despite the long, barren years when Welsh rugby was plunged into gloom after the bright light that shone on the '70s 'superstars' faded, the two nations are almost level pegging – with England on 12 Grand Slams and Wales on 11. The men in white have also claimed 24 Triple Crowns to Wales' 20.

Not that it should be assumed, of course, that the title race will be decided between these two – with many pundits predicting there will be no outright winner.

Last year's championship winners, and bookies' favourites, Ireland, will have something to say about that.

The men in green were level with England over the five games, but took the title by virtue of a better points tally to add to their solitary Grand Slam.

And let us not forget the boys in blue – the Scots have also been making strides under their new coach and will see a fourth Grand Slam and/or 11th Triple Crown as well within their reach.

There is also the lurking, if unpredictable threat from over the Channel, with France anxious to put recent travails behind them and lay down a World Cup marker by adding to their nine Grand Slams.

The captain and the coach.

Finally, there are the outsiders from Italy who would dearly love to finally prove themselves with their first Grand Slam in the Six Nations.

All in all, it promises to be a very tasty starter to the RWC main course later this year!

On Tuesday, Wales' head coach Warren Gatland unveiled his 34-man squad, which showed few surprises.

As expected, new recruit from Kiwi Gatland's homeland, Welsh-qualified Gareth Anscombe, has done enough in nine games at the Blues to warrant inclusion as a utility back, though at the expense of the ever-unlucky James Hook.

Another notable absentee, is the man once said to be the first name on the Wales team sheet, tight head Adam Jones, despite a current prop 'crisis' and his improved form since switching from the Ospreys to the Blues.

However, it is no surprise to see new kid on the block Tyler Morgan in the national frame, after his explosive exploits for the Dragons. Rob Evans (Scarlets) and Kristian Dacey (Blues) are the other uncapped players in the squad.

Don John

THE *WALES SIX NATIONS SQUAD*

***FORWARDS:** Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Paul James (Bath), Rob Evans (Scarlets), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Scott Andrews (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Kristian Dacey (Blues), Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Bradley Davies (Wasps), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), James King (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues, Capt), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).*

***BACKS:** Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Gareth Davies (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Gareth Anscombe (Blues), Cory Allen (Blues), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Jonathan Davies (Clermont Auvergne), Scott Williams (Scarlets), Tyler Morgan (Dragons), Hallam Amos (Dragons), Alex Cuthbert (Blues), George North (Northampton Saints), Liam Williams (Scarlets), Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon).*

New recruit from Kiwi land, Gareth Anscombe.

Six Nations fixtures 2015

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Wales v England at Millennium Stadium, Cardiff 8.05pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Italy v Ireland at Stadio Olimpico, Rome 2.30pm (GMT); France v Scotland at Stade de France, Paris 5pm (GMT).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
England v Italy at Twickenham Stadium, London 2.30pm; Ireland v France at Aviva Stadium, Dublin 5pm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Scotland v Wales at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh 3pm.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28
Scotland v Italy at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh 2.30pm; France v Wales at Stade de France, Paris 5pm (GMT).

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Ireland v England at Aviva Stadium, Dublin 3pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14
Wales v Ireland at Millennium Stadium, Cardiff 2.30pm; England v Scotland at Twickenham Stadium, London 5pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
Italy v France at Stadio Olimpico, Rome 3pm (GMT).

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
Italy v Wales at Stadio Olimpico, Rome 12.30pm (GMT); Scotland v Ireland at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh 2.30pm; England v France at Twickenham Stadium, London 5pm

The other new kid on the block – Tyler Morgan

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READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

IT is not the practice of this newspaper to publish anonymous letters to the Editor, but this week we make an exception.

The following unsigned letter was mailed to The GEM last week, amazingly taking us to task for having the audacity to publish an article in Welsh!

The writer, who actually claims to be Welsh, accuses us of "pandering to the minority by bringing Welsh to The GEM", asserting that Cowbridge has always been "an oasis of Englishness".

*While The GEM is predominantly printed in English, as a community newspaper that, after all, is published in **WALES**, we aim to be inclusive, and make no apology for including what for many is still the mother tongue in our weekly coverage. While the unknown writer is entitled to his or her view, it's a pity this was sent under a cloak of anonymity.*

The anonymous letter in full:

'COWBRIDGE is unique, successful and a special town because it has always been very un-Welsh.

'You are now pandering to the minority by bringing Welsh to The GEM.

'This is alienating other Welsh people – believe me, there are many, many of them who disagree with promoting the Welsh language (I am Welsh).

'It is no surprise that many are now moving away to secure better education, better paid jobs and a better lifestyle.

'Wales does not attract the best talent because of its insistence on the Welsh language.

'Cowbridge has always been an oasis of Englishness, and the town's character has been the reason for its popularity.

'What a shame The GEM has not recognised that once the town's difference is eroded, we will lose the reason why people value it. The majority of people in this town do not want more Welsh.

'Would The GEM like to publish how much all this Welsh language nonsense is costing? It is a total waste of money that could be better spent on improving the local economy in Wales.'

Fresh threat to Cowbridge

DR CHRIS PEARCE has highlighted the latest threat to Cowbridge (The GEM, December 4 and January 15). We have been here before!

Ten years ago, an opportunistic developer (Bellway) attempted to ambush the people of Cowbridge with an application for 145 houses on the green fields of Darren Farm. The proposal was not in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

With the support of over 1,000 signatories, Dr Pearce represented the town's objections at a public enquiry, where the planning inspector decisively rejected the proposal.

A new opportunistic application, for 390 houses and a link road, has now been submitted to develop the same green field site and, once again, the proposal is not in the UDP.

This time, the developers (CEG) are trying a PR charm offensive to persuade Cowbridge people that a population increase of 1,000 people and 500 cars (my estimates) will not have a harmful impact on the town.

For more proportionate and acceptable growth, the residents group have identified eight sustainable sites for up to 100 houses inside the settlement boundary. Also, there is a more compliant large brown field site within three miles of the town at Llandow.

Why do we enjoy living in Cowbridge so much? Probably because the people of Cowbridge, rather than politicians, developers and their PR agencies, know best what is right for Cowbridge; and because residents and the residents group have fought over many decades to protect our successful market town and sustainable community.

All residents and visitors who value our town, and the quality of life that it offers, should object to this latest threat.

Please go to *www.savedarrenfarm.co.uk* where Dr Pearce has listed the many sound planning reasons for objecting; and where they can find out the procedure for delivering their objections to the Vale Council. The closing date for objections is February 5.

Steven A Thomas, Llanblethian.

Greater risk of flooding in town?

A SERIOUS point that seems overlooked is that all the drainage from Darren Farm goes down to the River Thaw just above Cowbridge. The proposed development with its extra roofs, pavements and roads will increase run-off enormously and exacerbate flooding in Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

Catchment ponds are no solution because the worst flooding occurs after prolonged rain when such ponds are already overflowing.

Bernard Leake, Geologist, Llanblethian.

'Need for inquiry into the NHS'

SO the number of people waiting more than four hours to be seen at casualty units in Wales has risen to the highest level for five years, which is certainly not good news.

According to official stats, around 20 per cent of A&E patients have waited longer than the target of four hours to be seen.

This is damning news for the Welsh Government and is further proof that Welsh Labour are just not doing a good enough job of looking after our health service in Wales.

Why are they denying us an independent public inquiry into the failings of the Welsh NHS? It is time for the Welsh Ministers to stop running scared and coming up with feeble excuses and start to be more open, honest and transparent about the poor state of our NHS. Let us have that inquiry now!

That said, I think we need to thank our Welsh NHS staff who under extremely tough and challenging circumstances continue with their excellent commitment. We know it is not your fault but that of the politicians down in Cardiff Bay.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry,
Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Where *will* people live in rural Vale?

***'Cultural vandalism' – 'Threat to historic rural village'* screams a headline to a letter from Elizabeth Nash of Colwinston (The GEM, January 15).**

I agree that Colwinston, like Penmark and many more villages in the rural Vale is an idyll to which many of us cannot subscribe and we cannot afford to live there.

Furthermore, as I do not own a car and will soon be wheelchair bound, Colwinston is not an ideal place to live.

It is in a beautiful location with an excellent public house, but I do think there is more than a hint of NIMBYism, ie "Not In My Back Yard" in Ms Nash's letter.

No one can argue that we do need more housing in the Vale; this will also be welcomed by businesses in the area, such as the said public house.

More people = more consumers of ale and meals, probably, being Colwinston, from social groups 'A' and 'B'.

I can only assume the writer is a Socialist, or, *sacre bleu*, a Communist, as she condemns capitalism and the profit motive – Mr Cairns MP take note.

She talks about disenfranchisement, "*wilful abuse of power...*" "*without redress..*" "*the financial power of large commercial organisations*."

Who are they? It reminds me of the late Harold Wilson PM.

He always blamed our economic woes on the 'Gnomes of Zurich'!

We never did track down these mysterious personages.

Maybe it is they who are threatening Colwinston, already drinking their Pimms No 1 in the local hostelry?

In the meantime, where *will* people live?

Christopher Short, Barry.

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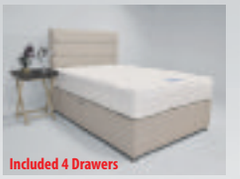

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Emerald Medium to firm open coil hand tufted 4'6" divan set with 4 drawers included in the price.
RRP £759 sale £379 save an EXTRA 20% £299

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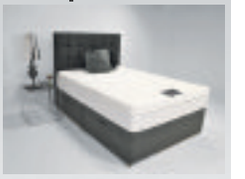
RRP £999 sale £499 save an EXTRA 20% £399



Cloud 2000 A combination of memory foam and 2000 individually nested pockets will invite you to drift off easily.
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Welsh hot tub company wins Canadian award

AQUA Spas & Pools, based at Atlantic Gate, near Barry, has been awarded best dealer for substantial growth and outstanding performance in 2014.

The business, which specialises in quality hot tubs with innovation, won the award at the Coast Spas manufacturing conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada, last week.

A spokesman said: "We were totally overwhelmed with the award, which also resulted in a skiing trip to the world's best ski resort in Whistler. It also showed our commitment to supporting hundreds of hot tub projects in 2014 throughout south Wales.

"We thank our local customers and look forward to getting many more bubbling in 2015. Visit our new website at *www.coastspaswales.co.uk* and *www.aquaspas.co.uk*, for hot tubs starting from under £3k."

Three local finalists on short list for awards

THREE local finalists on the short list for Tidy Wales awards have been unveiled, including Friends of Barry Beaches, Wenvoe Wildlife Group, and Bridgend Rail Station.

Supported by the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, the awards recognise volunteering groups throughout Wales who work to improve their local environment by reducing litter, protecting wildlife habitats, and reducing the impact of poverty.

The three shortlisted groups for each category will be invited to attend an award ceremony in Cardiff on February 26, hosted by S4C presenter Sian Thomas and former Welsh rugby star, Tom Shanklin.

Friends of Barry Beaches have been shortlisted for the Coastal Improvement Award, sponsored by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

Volunteers meet monthly to carry out beach cleaning in the Barry area. In the last four years they have collected 680 bags of rubbish and 720 bags of recycling.

The group also work to educate the public about the danger of litter to marine wildlife.

Wenvoe Wildlife Group has been shortlisted for the Biodiversity Award – the group's Community Orchard at Wenvoe Playing Fields has continued to develop over the past year.

Volunteers have transformed an unused patch of council-owned land that was prone to flooding into a productive and attractive community orchard, with fruit trees, pond, wildflower area, species-rich hedgerow and bee hotel.

Bridgend Railway Station is shortlisted for the Best Staffed Station Award, which recognises great facilities and conditions for the public.

It is sponsored by Arriva Trains Wales, the official transport provider for the Tidy Wales Awards.

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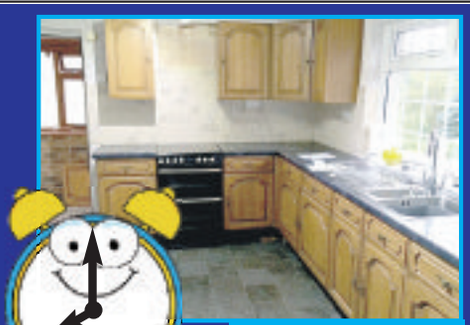

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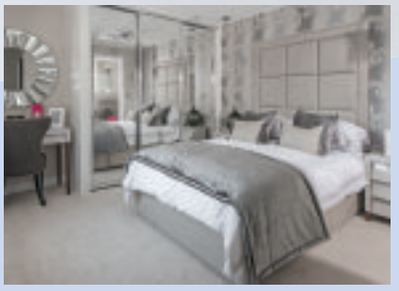

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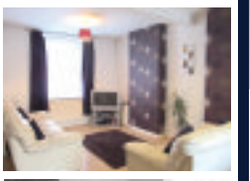


LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
- 2 bed mid terrace property in popular area of Barry
- Within walking distance to local schools & shops
- Well presented throughout
- Courtyard garden to the rear
- Offered freehold and would make an ideal 1st purchase

£104,950

NEW

BEATRICE ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted Victorian property
- Walking distance to town centre
- Well presented throughout
- Front & rear gardens
- Situated in quiet no through road
- Ideal 1st purchase or family home
- Conveniently located close to transport links in & out of Barry

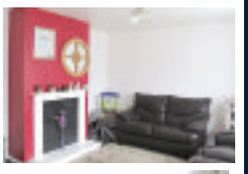
£122,000

SOLD

CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
- 4 Storey building, currently comprising:
- 2 bedroom basement flat with large garden to rear,
- 3 bedroom 2nd & 3rd floor maisonette
- Retail unit (used to be hairdressers)
- Ideal investment opportunity

£130,000

NEW



DYFNALLT ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bed end of terrace property
- Garden to front with a good sized garden to the rear
- In need of work throughout
- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

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2 bed terrace. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £550 pcm
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Sandville staff entertain volunteers to lunch

Report and photographs by ***KEITH E MORGAN***

The obligatory group photo – 65 smiling faces of volunteers, with Gwyneth and her team.

Volunteers enjoying lunch.

IT has become a tradition that every year, Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE and her staff at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Tôn Kenfig, entertain the army of volunteers who support the foundation to a lunch at the centre.

For this special lunch, the volunteers are welcomed with a glass of wine by Gary Banks, house manager, and then waited on by Gwyneth and her team: Ruth Foster and Irene Keene, trustees, together with Peggy Parish, secretary.

Not only do these four girls serve the lunch, but they do the washing up afterwards as well. The catering is always generously provided by the Prince of Wales public house at Kenfig.

There are 89 volunteers currently on the books at Sandville, and 60 attended. After enjoying a hearty meal, the volunteers were entertained by fellow volunteer Jacqui Adams, who ran a bingo session, followed by a raffle.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher, (far left) with her team (left to right): Peggy Parish, Irene Keene and Ruth Foster.

Jacqui Adams presenting volunteer Dave, winner of the bingo with his prize.

Victoria is a star for mum-to-be!

Minister for communities and tackling poverty, Lesley Griffiths AM, with national 'Stars In Their Lives' award winner, Victoria Owens.

A MIDWIFE from Porthcawl who helped a new mother overcome the challenges of being a parent for the first time, has scooped the top accolade the 'Stars In Their Lives' awards.

The Welsh Government's awards recognise the valuable contribution Flying Start professionals make to people's lives and children's development.

At an awards ceremony in Cardiff, Victoria Owens was announced as the overall national winner, as well as the Cardiff and south east Wales regional winner.

The midwife was nominated by Kelly Gittins, a new-mum who was facing a daily battle to get her new-born baby daughter to breastfeed successfully, until she met Victoria, who provided invaluable support and advice.

The minister for communities and tackling poverty, Lesley Griffiths, presented the awards and congratulated Victoria on her achievement.

She said: "I would like to congratulate Victoria on her well-deserved award. I am delighted our hard-working Flying Start staff are being recognised for the invaluable help and support they provide to people in Wales."

Victoria said: "I'm so surprised and pleased to have won! Being a first time parent is daunting for anyone and I am so glad I was able to provide the support needed."

School's double success in Bridgend Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' finals

BRIDGEND Rotary Club hosted the Rotary International District 1150 Area Youth Speaks finals at Brynteg Comprehensive School on January 19.

The annual public speaking competition, organised by Rotary District 1150 for pupils in the area, offers young people an experience of speaking on a public platform as members of a team.

Each team comprised three members: chairperson, speaker and proposer of a vote of thanks.

There were in effect two competitions: Intermediate competitors from Brynteg Comprehensive School, their topic 'Welsh should remain mandatory in schools and the current system should not be altered' – speaker Halle Bletsoe versus 293 (Cowbridge) Air Training Corps, their topic 'Will space tourism change humanity for the better?' – speaker Thomas Wood.

The senior competitors comprised three teams: Ysgol Gyfun Maesydderwen, Swansea, topic 'Better off a life on benefit' – speaker Isabelle Truscott; Brynteg Comprehensive School topic 'Should the global community be making a greater contribution to prevent the spread of Ebola?' – speaker Connor Lomax; Cowbridge Comprehensive School topic 'The UK should do more to help developing countries combat disease' – speaker Elliot Macneil.

The adjudicators Mr Andrew Wood, Rev Hywel Richards and Mr James Ledyard said that the competition was very tight, with the winners taking the honours by the narrowest margin.

Questions to each team were put by Rotarian Mr Caron Jones and the timekeepers were Roy Hodgkinson and Edward Jones. Mansel Thomas, the District assistant governor, presided over the competition along with Bridgend Rotary president Sue Cassidy.

Both stated that this was a very high calibre competition and congratulated the contestants, encouraging them to continue the good work and wishing them well in their future careers.

The winners of the intermediate competition were 293 (Cowbridge Air Training Corps; runners-up, Brynteg Comprehensive School.

The winners of the senior competition were Cowbridge Comprehensive School; runners-up Brynteg Comprehensive School, with third place going to Ysgol Gyfun Maesydderwen.

The winners of both categories will now go forward to compete in the District Final on March 6 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Major Wayne B Morgan

'Baby Friendly' award for Flying Start group

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Flying Start Health Visitors, who are part of the ABMU Health Visiting Service, have been praised for supporting new mums and their babies – as part of an assessment of the ABMU Health Board by UNICEF UK.

They have been accredited with the 'Baby Friendly Initiative Award' from UNICEF UK in recognition of the way health visitors help parents to bond with their babies and make informed decisions on how best to feed them.

Coun Huw David, BCBC's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The Flying Start programme aims to improve the lives of children aged under four who are living in our most disadvantaged communities and an enhanced health visitor service is central to this."

'Get your free bus pass' over-60s urged

ALL residents over 60 in Bridgend county borough are being reminded that they are entitled to apply for a free bus pass.

"A free concessionary bus pass entitles users to unlimited local bus travel anywhere in Wales, but currently only 93 per cent of local residents who are eligible for a bus pass have taken up the option," said cabinet member for communities, Coun Phil White.

"In Wales, we are fortunate that everyone aged 60 and over is entitled to a bus pass. Some residents only apply for a pass when they find that they can no longer drive for medical reasons, but I'd encourage people to take up the opportunity as soon as they turn 60 and enjoy the benefits of free bus travel around the county borough and beyond."

Application forms can be downloaded from www.bridgend.gov.uk.

EweMove wins the best newcomer at awards

EWEMOVE were awarded silver for best newcomer at The Estate Agency of the Year Awards 2014, in association with The Sunday Times and The Times and sponsored by Zoopla Property Group.

After "an incredible year" with many new branches launching across the UK, rapidly growing sales and letting agent EweMove, a well-received addition to the Vale property market since being set up in March 2014, were "delighted" with a win that rounds off a successful year for the growing business.

On December 5, over 650 leading estate agents from throughout the UK attended a glittering ceremony at The Lancaster London Hotel opposite Hyde Park where the winners of the most highly regarded awards in the estate agency industry were revealed.

The winners were presented with their awards by Michelle Mone OBE, founder of international lingerie brand Ultimo, with TV newsreader Penny Smith acting as compere.

Award winners were decided by a panel of 19 industry experts, who assessed initial entry submissions before conducting an extensive review of the entrants, which included over 150 hours of telephone interviews and mystery shopping exercises. The process was overseen by the Property Ombudsman, Christopher Hamer, and Mark Hayward, managing director of the NAEA acted as Arbiter.

Now in its 12th year as a dedicated competition, the awards have become widely recognised as the most prestigious and difficult to win. With more entrants than ever before, over 5,000 offices were represented this year.

EweMove, winners of the Newcomer category received the award following success earlier in the year after winning an Innovation award at the Lettings Agency of the Year Awards and being shortlisted for best property management. Local branch directors of EweMove Vale of Glamorgan, Karen Treweek and Richard Cook commented: "We're delighted to receive this award! It's a real honour for our innovative approach to estate agency to be recognised with such a prestigious award.

"We pride ourselves on working harder than any other agent to deliver results for our clients, we get our sellers' and landlords' homes more interest, more quickly. We also operate a 24/7 service, making sure that any viewing, enquiry, property application or purchase offer is never lost.

"It's obvious really, most people search for houses online when they've finished work, or at weekends – precisely when most other agents are shut. They're missing a trick, as we get lots of enquiries during these periods; so our clients don't miss out."

A website listing all the winning companies with comments from the judges as to why they won can be found at www.estateagencyoftheyear.com or EweMove's summary can be found at http://estateagencyoftheyear.com/ewemove/index.html.

For further information, contact Karen or Richard, EweMove Branch Directors for The Vale of Glamorgan on 01446 349349 or visit EweMove.com/barry.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

*Mr David Williams – **6 Caer Worgan, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Conversion of existing detached double garage to increase living space via extension link between existing two bedroom semi-detached dwelling and garage.*

*Ms Ann Rimell – **14 Cold Knap Way, Barry** – Extensions to existing bungalow comprising new porch to main entrance and utility room extension off existing kitchen.*

*Mr Chris Withey – **Plot 1, Orchardleigh, Pen Y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Amendments to approved dwellings – 2012/00400/RES.*

*Mr David Hughes – **2 Police House, Higher End, St Athan** – Orangery to side of property.*

*Jennifer Hill, Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Romilly Primary School, Romilly Road, Barry** – Demolition of an existing dilapidated nursery classroom and its replacement with a demountable building including all necessary ground works and services connections.*

*SA Brain and Co Ltd – **Tynewydd Inn, 103 Tynewydd Road, Barry** – Demolish two storey outbuilding and excavate tarmac hardstanding to form new landscaped external trading garden and children's play area.*

*Mr Michael Rafferty – **1 Porth y Green Close, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Erection of single storey garden room/study.*

*R and L Anthony Ltd – **Sealands Farm, Heol Las, Wick** – Hedgerow removal.*

*Waterstone Homes – **Land to the south of Craig Yr Eos Avenue, Ogmore by Sea** – Residential development for 21 dwellings.*

*RBS – **4 Westgate, Cowbridge** – Installation of the following shopfront signage, post removal of signage currently in situ: two 350mm fascia with two 245mm high halo illuminated lettering and chevron logo; one 600mm non-illuminated projecting sign; one 420mm high ATM tablet with illuminated accent lines, lettering and chevron logo (replacement of one ATM with new like-for-like replacement); one 480mm high reverse applied vinyl entrance sign; other permitted signage, two nameplates; two car park signs.*

*Mr Chris David – **Y Berllan Fach, Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major** – Proposed extension and internal alterations.*

*Mr Richard Anthony – **Blackhall Farm, Blackhall Road, St Brides Major** – Hedgerow removal.*

*Mr A Haynes – **2 Hollyrood Close, Barry** – Fell and replace Silver Birch.*

*Mrs C Mckay – **The Hawthorns, Llansannor** – Single storey (conservatory) extension. New slate covering to existing pitch roof.*

*Mr Chris Davey – **8 Beach Road, Penarth** – Proposed demolition of existing detached garage, proposed split level store/workshop extension to side elevation, proposed gable parapet to front elevation (drawn with previously approved two-storey entrance extension and window replacement).*

*Unionburger Ltd – **Burger King (UK) Ltd, Culverhouse Cross Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross** – LTD red band to roof ridge perimeter.*

*Mr Paul Motte – **UWC Atlantic College, St Donats** – Amendments to planning application 2014/01058/FUL.*

*Commercial Estates Group and Mr JGR Homfray – **Land at North West Cowbridge** – Detailed permission for the construction of a link road connecting Cowbridge bypass with Llantwit Major including footpaths/cycleways, landscaping and associated engineering works. Outline permission with all matters reserved other than access for a mixed use residential led development.*

*Mr Keith Neighbour – **Mon Repose, Pleasant Harbour, East Aberthaw** – Proposed new single storey extensions, to form a garden/family room with roof terrace above and new rear entrance porch, incorporating wash-down facilities.*

*Natural Resources Wales – **Garages, Tair Onnen, Cowbridge** – Proposed demolition of sheds.*

*Llancadle Solar Farm Ltd – **Llancadle Farm, Llancadle** – Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to provide approximately 5mw generation capacity together with power inverter systems; transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; deer fencing, CCTV and associated access gate.*

*Westside Development Ltd – **Plot 1 and Plot 2, River Walk, Cowbridge** – Erection of two detached dwellings.*

*Mr Paul Sullivan – **117 St David's Crescent, Penarth** – Extension to an existing dwelling to be used as a kitchen/diner.*

*Mrs Hayley Clare – **1 Hastings Avenue, Penarth** – Construction of three-bedroom detached house in side garden.*

*Mr William Rees – **5 Mountjoy Crescent, Penarth** – Non material amendment to planning permission 2013/00984/FUL to remove first floor of approval.*

*Leckwith Motor Company – **Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth** – Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works.*

*Mr Roger and Mrs Sian Hall – **27 Myrtle Close, Penarth** – Single storey garage/store to rear garden.*

*Mr Rhodri Ellis Owen and Mr Richard Price – **Primrose Cottage, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major** – Proposed horse stable block and creation of new vehicular/pedestrian access.*

*Miss Sian-Elin Griffith – **3 Ael y Bryn, Peterston Super Ely** – Extend existing front gable and bathroom/porch gable, and associated alterations to windows.*

*Mr Meurig Thomas – **Tyr Berllan, Piggery Lane, St Mary Church** – Extension to the front elevation of the existing property.*

*Mr and Mrs Clarke – **Hill House Sigingstone** – Rear conservatory.*

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(B4265 ST BRIDES ROAD (PART) EWENNY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On 19th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (B4265 St Brides Road (Part) Ewenny) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location B4265 - St Brides Road, Ewenny from its junction with the access road into the quarry to the rear of number 1 Kingswood Close at grid 290072 177011 in a generally south westerly direction to the quarry access at Pontalun at grid 289928 176698. A distance of approximately 325m.

Reason To allow removal and replacement of a railway bridge on behalf of Network Rail.

Duration From 6.00am on Monday 2nd February 2015, until 30 June 2015.

Diversions **(for vehicles under 15 feet high)** for southwest bound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a north easterly direction along St Brides Road and continuing along this road to the junction of the B4524 Ogmore Road, then turning left at this junction and continuing in a generally south westerly direction and continue along the B4524 along Main Road, through the village of Ogmore-By-Sea, continue along the B4524 through Southerndown continue along this road along Southerndown road, and Bull Hill, to where this road meets the B4265 at St Brides. then turning left onto the B4265 Ewenny Road, continue along the B4265 along Ewenny Road and St Brides Road to the south western point of the closure, and visa-versa.

Diversions **(for vehicles over 15 feet high)** for south westbound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a north easterly direction along St Brides Road and continuing along this road to the junction of the B4524 Wick Road and turning right into Wick Road, continue along the B4524 Wick Road and Corntown Road through the villages of Ewenny and Corntown, to where this road meets the A48, turn right onto the A48, and follow in an easterly direction along this road to Penre Mayrick, turn right into the B4268, and continue in a southerly direction along this road through the village of Llysworney to Nash Corner. From Nash Corner continue in a southerly direction along the B4270 to its junction with the B4265 at Llantwit Major then turn right onto the B4265, and continue along this road through Wick and St Brides to the south western side of the closure, and visa-versa.

Pedestrian and emergency vehicle access cannot be maintained during this closure.

Dated this 22nd day of January 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (B4265 ST BRIDES ROAD (RHAN YN UNIG) EWENNI)

1. Ar 19 Ionawr 2015 yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (B4265 St Brides Road (Rhan yn unig) Ewenni) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015'.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y man a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad B4265 - St Brides Road, Ewenni, o'r gyffordd â ffordd fynediad y chwarel, y tu cefn i 1 Kingswood Close, wrth gyfeirnod grid 290072 177011, ac ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y de-orllewin, hyd at fynedfa'r chwarel ym Mhontalun wrth gyfeirnod grid 289928 176698. Rhyw 325 medr yw hynny i gyd.

Rheswm Symud ac ailosod pont reilffordd ar ran Network Rail.

Cyfnod O 6.00am ar ddydd Llun 2 Chwefror 2015 hyd 30 Mehefin 2015.

Dargyfeirio **(cerbydau llai na 15 troedfedd o uchder)** tra bod y ffordd ar gau, bydd traffig sy'n teithio i'r de-orllewin yn cael ei gyfeirio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain ar hyd St Brides Road. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno hyd at y gyffordd ag Ogmore Road (B4524), yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno ac yn parhau i ddilyn y B4524 i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Main Road drwy bentref Aberogwr. Bydd yn dilyn y B4524 o hyd drwy Southerndown, ar hyd Southerndown Road a thrwy ardal Bull Hill hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265 yn Sain Ffraid. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn i Ewenny Road (B4265), ac yn dilyn yr heol honno, ac yna St Brides Road, hyd at ben de-orllewinol y ffordd gaeedig. Bydd y daith yn ôl yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Dargyfeirio **(cerbydau dros 15 troedfedd o uchder)** tra bod y ffordd ar gau, bydd traffig sy'n teithio i'r de-orllewin yn cael ei gyfeirio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain ar hyd St Brides Road. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno hyd at gyffordd Wick Road (B4524), yn troi i'r dde i Wick Road ac yn dilyn Wick Road (B4524), ac yna Corntown Road drwy bentrefi Ewenni a Chorntwn hyd at y gyffordd â'r A48. Bydd yn troi i'r dde i'r A48 yn y fan honno, yn dilyn y ffordd i gyfeiriad y dwyrain hyd at Bentremeurig, yn troi i'r dde i'r B4268, ac yn parhau i ddilyn y ffordd honno i gyfeiriad y de drwy bentref Llyswyrny hyd at Nash Corner. O'r fan honno, bydd yn dilyn y B4270 i gyfeiriad y de hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265 yn Llanilltud Fawr ac yn troi i'r dde i'r B4265. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno wedyn drwy'r Wig a Sain Ffraid hyd at ochr dde-orllewinol y ffordd gaeedig. Bydd y daith yn ôl yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Ni fydd yn bosibl i gerddwyr na cherbydau argyfwng gael mynediad i'r ffordd tra ei bod ar gau.

Dyddiedig 8 Ionawr 2014.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Porthcawl students 'Oxbridge'-bound

Madeleine Williamson-Sarll is going to Lincoln College, Oxford.

Alicia Cooke, who is going to Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

TWO Porthcawl Comprehensive pupils are celebrating their success after being offered places in Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Madeleine Williamson-Sarll, aged 18, has been offered an unconditional place at Lincoln College, Oxford to read German.

Madeleine gained 3 A* and 1 A in her A-Levels last summer in English, German, Welsh and French and is currently taking a gap year.

Alicia Cooke, also 18, who is in year-12 at Porthcawl Comprehensive and is formerly a pupil of St John's School, Porthcawl, has been offered a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read geography, with a conditional offer of A*AA. Alicia is currently studying geography, history and biology at A-Level.

Oxbridge applications in 2013 were the lowest since 1999, figures show. A total of 105 students from Wales were accepted at Oxford and Cambridge, down from 144 five years earlier. An Oxford University spokesperson pointed, however, to an improvement in the last academic year.

Madeleine's Oxford success comes hot on the heels of another academic achievement, already reported on in this paper. Just before Christmas, she was presented with the WJEC A-Level award for the best Welsh A-level results in the whole of the UK.

"I am over the moon about this opportunity to work with some of the best tutors in the world over the coming four years," said Madeleine.

Having worked for two months in Austria, Madeleine is leaving for Poland this week, to another teaching post, followed by further travelling for the remainder of the year. She has also completed work experience in a German school.

In the future, she hopes to pursue a career with languages.

Alicia's mother, Ruth, is delighted with her daughter's offer and is keen to emphasise how committed Alicia has been to her studies: "She's always been extremely focused and has worked incredibly hard to get to this level".

One of Alicia's geography teachers, Mrs Adele Mackey, added: "As a department, we are very proud to hear of Alicia's offer. She is a very hard-working and dedicated young lady, so this is well deserved".

As part of her preparation for her Cambridge application, Alicia attended Summer School in Homerton College.

Alicia was formerly a member of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain and has been a modern, lyrical and tap dancer for many years, both with the Sarah Burnell School of Dance and with Caroline Brown.

In 2013, she was part of a team in the All England Dance Competition, resulting in a performance in the West End. This coming half term, she will be taking part in the regional final of the same championships in Cheltenham.

Also an excellent sportswoman, Alicia was a member of the Welsh rounders squad, representing her country in year-10.

Alicia said she is "absolutely delighted to be offered this incredible opportunity".

Her interest is in International Development, with her "dream job" being a post with the UN.

How Cardiff Airport can really take off

I READ with interest Dr Alex Rees's letter in The GEM edition of January 15 and I agree with all the comments.

Having visited Auckland Airport on many occasions and used the mini bus shuttle, it is a good swift service at an affordable price. Cardiff could do the same, a 12 or 15 seater would be sufficient.

Expanding Dr Rees's comments on attracting low cost carriers to use the airport, the management of the airport, plus the owners (viz the Welsh Government) should contact all the airlines that fly to and from the eastern seaboard of North America to suggest that they terminate their incoming flights at Cardiff, and also start their outgoing flights from Cardiff.

What are the advantages? By avoiding the congestion at Heathrow, passengers can be transferred to the First Great Western train service to London Paddington.

Transfer the passengers by coach to Cardiff Central Station and let them board the hourly service that the train company provides.

Let the airlines group together and charter trains from First Great Western to start at Rhoose station straight to London Paddington. Then they can bus the passengers to Rhoose Station.

The reverse can happen for outbound flights with check-in counters at London Paddington to take the passengers' checked in baggage straight to Cardiff Airport.

There would also be check-in counters at the airport for those wishing to travel separately.

What will this do? Relieve the pressure on Heathrow and perhaps save the building of a third runway if agreed by all interested parties, by freeing up quite a number of slots at Heathrow.

It would give a tourism boost to Wales as the tourist board will have a great opportunity to promote the attractions and countryside of Wales.

This possible solution could very well attract low cost airlines.

With BA maintenance business already based at the airport, they may like to expand their service to looking after other airlines' aircraft requiring short term maintenance while waiting to fly back to America.

This may sound pie in the sky, but when you start to look at the logistics of such a move, it could prove advantageous in more ways than one.

John A Mason, Barry.

Prestigious award for ex-Brynteg pupil

BRYNTEG Comprehensive School has congratulated former pupil Dominic Manetta-Jones, who left last summer to study medicine at Cambridge University.

Dominic Manetta-Jones.

A school spokeswoman said: "Dominic has just been notified that he has won a highly prestigious Physics Award from the Institute of Physics. This is a massive achievement and the first time that a Brynteg student has won this award.

"The Goronwy Jones Prize is awarded every year to the top student with the highest score on the WJEC A-Level physics paper in Wales.

"There is a prize to accompany this award of £300 and it is hoped that Dominic will receive the prize at Brynteg School, where he will be warmly congratulated in person by staff and students alike.

"We at Brynteg are so proud of Dominic and his achievements and send our best wishes to him and his family".

The head of physics and electronics at Brynteg, Mr S Jones, was delighted when he heard the news.

He said: "This is thoroughly well-deserved for such a bright, hardworking young man.

"Dominic gained four A*s in last year's A-Level examinations.

Very well done and we look forward to welcoming him back to Brynteg to see him receive his just reward for the hard work he always put in.

"He is a role model for all our students and hopefully others will follow in his footsteps".

PORTHCAWL RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

ABOVE: Lloyd Long (man of the match and captain) and RIGHT: Tim Lunn (carrying the ball) both starred as Porthcawl RFC firsts earned a 28-5 win over Ogmore Vale on Saturday. PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.

THE Porthcawl RFC under-12s were resounding winners over Bryncethin RFC, 44-5; tries came from Miles, Joe, Aaron, Ollie, Owen, Niall, Tom and Rohan, with conversions by Ollie and Sonny.

UNDER-11s - PORTHCAWL 42 RUMNEY 5

The Seaweeds opened their account for the new year with a resounding victory over a battling Rumney side.

It was certainly a tale of two halves, with Porthcawl dominating the first half with some neat handling and running rugby. The water carriers and grafters Sol Kembery, Toby Reay, Tom Morgan, Ollie Totman and Gabe Lacey all secured quick possession, allowing the runners to do what they do best.

Porthcawl scored a succession of tries through Bud Morgan, Alex Williams, Evan Jones and Elliot Bennett, each converted neatly by Elliot Bennett.

Runmey battled and tackled hard but in truth offered very little offensive rugby. Gabe Lacey finished off the first half with a strong run and touchdown to leave Rumney a little disheartened, trailing 35-0.

The second half saw changes on both sides with Rumney tightening up and Porthcawl introducing Luke Dobbin, James Crole and twins Calum and Finley Harvey-Aggett into the game. Rumney and scored a well-deserved try after five minutes.

This half was in contrast to the first , being a scrappy affair with Porthcawl the more guilty of the two by reverting back to their old ways of poor decision making and sloppy passing, and kicking good possession away when there were other positive options available.

Porthcawl's defence was good with James Crole putting in a big shift. Crole scored a try 15 minutes into the second half which Elliot Bennett once again neatly popped between the sticks.

There were options all over the park for the Seaweeds to exploit gaps but old habits came creeping back, with poor decision making. Lessons need to be learned from this because Pontyclun come calling on Sunday and they are a formidable side.

BC

UNDER-8S - BRYNCETHIN 5 PORTHCAWL 3

For two weeks running our tagging has been poor, but today was our lowest tag count with six players not even getting a tag and many of the rest only had one or two.

With this group including a large number who have previously won the top tagger award, it's something we all need to look at!

There were however two players who stood out in defence by driving up quickly and closing the space Lewis and Sam, with Oscar close behind.

Lewis had another outstanding game, pushing the winner of top tagger Samuel all the way, claiming five tags each.

We had more than enough skill in the team to have won comfortably but without the team effort in defence were not able to show our running skills.

We scored some great tries, with Sam in the corner coming off three great passes with Lex and Matt throwing dummies and then putting Samuel into space for him to use his rocket speed.

Matt won the top try scorer award, even though he did not score, but the award was deserved for drawing in the defence and providing the pass into space. Another speedster on the scoresheet was Ryan, sidestepping through the team after receiving quick ball straight off the tag scoring in the corner and Dewi scoring in the corner.

Our set plays came off a treat; unfortunately we were not able to score but execution was superb with angles of running, with Dewi picking up the making a difference award, not just for the try scored but the passes into space allowing his team mates to exploit the space.

The individual clubman award went to Brody, who has been asked to focus on tagging which over last couple of weeks has been up there with the best but in this game we saw a number of sidestep, spins in tackle and a dummy, all skills we have been working on, and his appreciation of space is improving week on week - well done!

This week we are away to Pontyclun and if we don't get our tagging game going they will exploit the gaps as they have plenty of good runners as well as a team able to pass the ball.

UNDER-7S

Match 1 - Bryncethin 5, Porthcawl 6; match 2 - Bryncethin 9, Porthcawl 7.

Players awards: Man of the match - Rhys Evans; Achievement award - Ben Young, James Hodges.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

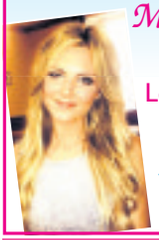
Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Melanie Morgan

on 27th January

Love & Best Wishes



All your friends at The GEM xxx

Mia Marie Ireland

Happy 9th Birthday on January 22nd

Lots of Love

Mum & Dad, Cara, Nicole, Dylan, Scarlett & Tyler xxx

Dawn Snowden-Hunt

Happy 50th Birthday on 26th January

Love from Mum, Dad, Andrew, Rattana & Mark xxx

Anniversaries

Margaret & Michael Scobie

22nd January 1955

Congratulations on your 60th Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

With much love Sue, Ian & Sean grandchildren Jason, Gemma, Jamie & great grandson Bailey

Margaret & Raymond Savory

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary

You are truly inspirational parents.

Love always

Pamela, Samantha & Leigh, Troy, Reece, Rhiannon and Noah. xx

JONES
Sheila

Passed away peacefully at home on 18th January, aged 74 years. Dearly loved wife of Gerald, loving mum of Alison, Christopher and Adèle and proud nana of all her grandchildren. Will be sadly missed.

Resting at JR & MF David of St Brides Major, until her funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 29 January 2015 at 10.30am.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the British Lung Foundation.

Black attire optional. Colourful attire welcome. Enquiries telephone 01656 880308.

DAVIES
Viv

Peacefully on January 3rd at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Viv of Druids Green, Cowbridge.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, January 26th at 12 noon where friends please meet.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

WESTCOTT
Ethel

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Ethel, much loved wife of the late Ken, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, January 30th at 12 noon.

MERRETT
Nick

Peacefully, at home, surrounded by his family, on Sunday 11 January, Nick of Llangan. Beloved husband of Julie and a dearly loved son, father and grandfather.

Funeral Tuesday 27 January. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm where friends please meet.

Family flowers only by request - donations in lieu if desired to either Macmillan Cancer Care or Y Bwthyn Newydd c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow Street, Bridgend, CF31 1HE. Tel: 01656 650831.

LANG
Hector (Mac)

Sadly passed on 12th January 2015. Much loved husband of Beryl, devoted dad to Suzanne, Martin, Andrea and Lisa. A loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, 23rd January at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations may be made at the service in memory of Hector to the British Heart Foundation, or sent to the funeral directors.

THE FAMILY OF MRS EMY ALLBRIGHTON

Would like to give their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all friends and relatives who attended the funeral of their mother at St Athan Church on Thursday, 15th January, 2015 and for the cards and condolences received.

Special acknowledgements to Rachel Simpson, Curate of St. Athan Church, Mr John James of W. James & Sons Funeral Home, Rhoose, and Nigel, Mary and Chris of Rhoose Social Club.

Mum will be forever in our hearts and thoughts.

McLEAN
Richard Colin

Suddenly and tragically on January 10th at UHW Cardiff, Richard of Llantwit Major. Beloved partner of April, much loved father of Marie, Brandon, Cameron and Declan, dearly loved son of Jim and Tricia and brother of Stuart and Heather. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, January 26, service 2.30pm at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by private interment. Black attire optional, family flowers only may be sent to Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Stroke Association, c/o J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

BROWN
Rita Elizabeth (nee Jenkins)

Peacefully after a short illness on 3rd January in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Rita, aged 81 years, of Aberthin, Cowbridge. Devoted wife of the late Graham Brown (former owner of W.A. Brown and Son, Funeral Directors in Llantwit Major) Loving mother to Julie, Caroline and Andrew and a much loved granny to Jonathan, Leah, Rhys and Owen.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 30th January at 2.45pm. Cut flowers please may be sent to the funeral home.

SYNAN
David

Tragically on January 1, David of Llantwit Major, dearly loved son of Liz and Cliff, loving brother of Angharad (Harry), beloved grandson of Ann Llewellyn (Morfa), will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, January 27, private service at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel, Boverton, followed by public service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Air Ambulance Wales or R.N.L.I. c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

CLEMENTS
Frank

Peacefully at home on January 9th surrounded by his loving family. Frank, formerly of Adamsdown, Cardiff, and well known for his time as school caretaker in Cardiff & Bryn Hafren Lower School, Barry.

Devoted husband to Margaret, much loved dad of Anne and Ian. Respected father-in-law of Nathan and Lisa. An adored and cherished bampy and great bampy to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loving brother of Rita, Jean and all his late brothers & sisters.

Frank will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his Requiem Mass at St Helens RC Church, Wyndham Street, Barry CF62 4ET on Friday, 30th January at 10.45am, followed by interment at Western Cemetery. Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to Velindre Hospital or Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

CLEMENTS
Frank

'Dad always know I love you,
life will never be the same,
the years will come and go
but you'll be remembered each time
I speak your name.'

Love always
your Anne x

GEARY
Keith John

Suddenly, but peacefully, on January 4, Keith of Llantwit Major (Councillor of Vale of Glamorgan and Llantwit Major Town Council). Beloved husband of Sylvia, dearly loved father of Emma and Veronica, father-in-law of Paul and Alex and much loved grandfather of Joseph, Adam, Lukas and Ellen.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, January 30, service 12 noon at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by private interment. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Diabetes UK c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

HUTCHESON
Rachel Margaret Lloyd

Ray, as she was known, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 11th, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Rachel, loving wife of the late Lester, beloved mother of Catrin and Judith, mother-in-law to Greg and Gareth and a proud and loving nanny.

Resting at the private chapel of Thomas Brothers Funeral Services, Cowbridge, until her service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Monday, 26th January at 3.45pm.

Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Funeral Directors

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STAR LIGHTS UP ST RICHARD GWYN SCHOOL'S PRIZEGIVING EVENING!

WELSH stage star Connie Fisher was the special guest for St Richard Gwyn's annual prizegiving evening, which celebrated the many and varied achievements of the Barry students during the previous school year.

The evening began with a welcome by head boy Kieran Horrigan, followed by an opening prayer from Vicar General Canon Joe Boardman.

A cornet solo played by Cerian Reynish and a musical item from the SRG Band (Oscar McNaughton, Thomas Dunstan, Callum Aust, Aron Cozens and Jade Clarke) were enjoyed by all.

The special guest for the evening was Connie Fisher, star of the *Sound of Music* stage show, and we were treated to an enlightening talk about her climb to fame and how she pursued her dream despite numerous setbacks.

Connie was wonderful with the students and carefully posed when presenting them with their awards so they could have a special photo to remind them of their achievements.

The evening closed with head girl Rosanna Ellis thanking the special guests and all concerned for an inspiring evening.

CR

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBRAU TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 1 A RHIF 3, SILSTWN) GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBRAU CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 9 Ionawr 2015, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980.

Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd ailgyfeirio rhannau o'r llwybrau troed cyhoeddus sydd wedi'u nodi yn yr Atodlen ac a welir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 22 Ionawr 2015 hyd 5 Mawrth 2015. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 22 Ionawr 2015. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam o'i herwydd yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am y tyb nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfiwyd â'i gofynion neu'r rheoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraff 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl 22 Ionawr 2015.

Dyddiedig 22 Ionawr 2015

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 1 & 3 GILESTON) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 9th day of January 2015 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert parts of the public footpaths as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 22nd January 2015 until 5th March 2015. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 22nd January 2015, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 22nd January 2015 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 22nd January 2015

Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

VARIOUS ROADS, CARDIFF AIRPORT (VARIOUS PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS TO VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS) (ANTI-TERRORISM) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

The Vale of Glamorgan Council, following the recommendation of the Chief Constable of Police, and in exercise of its powers as Highway Authority under Sections 14(1) and 22C of the Road traffic regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, for the purposes of avoiding, reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism, intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an order the general effect of which will be to introduce prohibitions, restrictions and limitations in those locations and during those times specified below:

Pursuant to the powers afforded by section 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the use of the public highway, by all classes of user, with the exception of use by a) vehicles of the Emergency Services or b) other classes of user to be agreed with the Chief Constable South Wales Police in the interests of Airport Security and Public safety will be limited as shown by temporary markings, physical barriers and signs in so far as such use may be restricted by the above Act.

The powers described above may be exercised so such an extent that any provision of any existing Permanent Order, or the provisions of this Temporary Order, may, be commenced, suspended, varied or revived during its duration.

Except as provided by this Order:

No person shall proceed on foot or cause or permit any vehicle or cycle to proceed, stop or wait at any time, in the location specified within the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Location All roads between the roundabout where the airport access road meets the A4226/B4265 and the junctions where the two airport access roads meet Port Road.

Footpaths (Public Rights of Way) Penmark No's 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21, together with Restricted By-Way known as Penmark No 18 throughout their lengths

Reasons These prohibitions, restrictions and limitations are made for the purpose of avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the roads; avoiding, reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism or for a purpose relating to danger or damage connected with terrorism (as defined in Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000).

Duration From 18.01 hours on 30th January 2015 for a maximum period of 18 Months.

Alt Route The diversions for south east bound traffic will be from the roundabout adjacent to the Aircraft Maintenance Facility, then in a south easterly direction along the A4226 to the roundabout at the junction with Port Road then in a south westerly direction along Port Road, to the Airport and vice-versa.

None for footpath closures.

Dated this 22nd day of January 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe
CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (GWRTHDERFYSGAETH) (DROS DRO) (GWAHARDD CERDDWYR A CHERBYDAU A CHYFYNGU AR EU SYMUDIADAU) FFYRDD AMRYWIOL, MAES AWYR CAERDYDD 2015

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan ddilyn argymhelliad Prif Gwnstabl yr Heddlu, ac arfer ei bwerau fel Awdurdod Priffyrdd o dan Adrannau 14(1) a 22C Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn bwriadu gwneud gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn. Diben y gorchymyn hwnnw fydd un ai osgoi, lleihau ynteu lleihau'r posibilrwydd o berygl mewn perthynas â therfysgaeth. Ei effaith gyffredinol fydd cyflwyno gwaharddiadau a chyfyngiadau yn y lleoliadau ac yn ystod yr adegau a bennwyd isod:

Yn unol â'r pwerau o dan adran 22C Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984, bydd pob dosbarth o ddefnyddwyr, ac eithrio (a) cerbydau'r Gwasanaethau Brys (b) unrhyw ddosbarthiadau eraill y mae Prif Gwnstabl Heddlu De Cymru'n cytuno i'w heithrio er mwyn cadw'r Maes Awyr a'r cyhoedd yn ddiogel, yn cael ei rwystro rhag defnyddio'r briffordd gyhoeddus. Bydd pob rhwystr i'r briffordd yn cael ei nodi â marciau, atalfeydd ac arwyddion dros dro ac yn digwydd i'r graddau a ganiateir o dan y Ddeddf uchod yn unig.

Gellir defnyddio'r pwerau a ddisgrifiwyd uchod i gychwyn, gohirio, amrywio neu ailgychwyn darpariaethau unrhyw Orchymyn Parhaol sy'n bodoli eisoes neu'r Gorchymyn Dros Dro dan sylw tra pery.

Ac eithrio fel y darperir drwy'r Gorchymyn hwn:

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded nac yn peri nac yn caniatáu i gerbyd na beic symud, stopio neu aros yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Lleoliad Pob ffordd rhwng y gylchfan lle y mae ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â'r A4226/B4265 a'r cyffyrdd lle y mae'r ddwy ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â Port Road.

Llwybrau Troed (Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus) Pen-marc rhifau 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21 a'r Ffordd Ddidramwy Gyfyngedig a adwaenir fel llwybr Pen-marc rhif 18, ar eu hyd.

Rhesymau Diben y gwaharddiadau a'r cyfyngiadau hyn fydd un ai osgoi, lleihau ynteu lleihau'r posibilrwydd o berygl mewn perthynas â therfysgaeth (fel y'i diffinnir yn Adran 1 Deddf Terfysgaeth 2000).

Cyfnod O 06.01pm ar 30 Ionawr 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf.

Llwybr arall Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r gylchfan ger y Cyfleustra Cynnal a Chadw Awyrennau, i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain, ar hyd yr A4226 hyd at y gylchfan wrth y gyffordd â Port Road. Bydd yn symud ymlaen wedyn i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Port Road, i'r maes awyr. Bydd traffig o'r cyfeiriad arall yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

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Dyddiedig 22 Ionawr 2015

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Club's plan to get more girls on the golf course

ABOVE: Megan Cullinane is the St Andrews Major Golf Club's junior champion.

A CURRENT national campaign to get more girls involved in sport is being supported by a Vale golf club.

What's more, John Hastings, the teaching professional at St Andrews Major Golf Club, is of the opinion that girls pick up important parts of the game quicker than boys.

He said: "Girls are a lot easier to teach because they are not so pre-occupied with hitting the ball vast distances as boys and young men are."

John believes there are many girls who would take up the game if they knew what opportunities exist and if they had other girls to practise and play with.

For that reason, he has decided to offer local girls between seven and 14 years a 'starters' lesson free of charge, for the rest of this month and through February.

If they enjoy the experience, they can join one of the courses that John offers at the club, with the long-term goal of bringing them to either a good club, county or even international level, depending on their ability and commitment.

St Andrews Major GC already has two promising girl members. Holly Pitcock (16) won the Shelter Cymru Welsh Open at Celtic Manor and Megan Cullinane (aged 11) won the club's junior championship against a field of 17 boys,

John feels that St Andrews, which has recently become a nine-hole starter course is the perfect place to launch their golfing careers.

He added: "We have a five-year plan to develop young girl golfers in both the physical and mental sides of the game.

"Golf is an aerobic exercise and, coupled with the walking the game demands, you can burn around 1,500 calories over 18 holes.

"The health benefits are obvious . and the opportunity of forming friendships through golf is another genuine reason for taking up the game".

For more information, contact John on 07761 137265.or e-mail info@standrewsmajorgolfclub .com

Hockey team's magnificent seven

WHILE Penarth Hockey Club's 2nd XI had their unbeaten record preserved by the frozen tundra of Treforest, the senior team roared back into Davis Wood Hockey League action by crushing old rivals Cardiff & Met at home, winning 7-3.

Despite the arrival of winter in the Vale, Penarth were able to welcome their opponents to Colcot Sports Centre as they looked to build on the 6-1 victory claimed over Cardiff Medics before the Christmas break.

The home side started the game very slowly and Cardiff capitalised by catching them in possession and breaking quickly to open the scoring.

The Bears, however, responded quickly, equalising in short order thanks to the ever-reliable Phil Lane, who slotted past the Cardiff 'keeper following a swift counter attack.

The rest of the half proved evenly matched, but Penarth went into the interval 2-1 down after Cardiff again made the most of some poor defending to retake the lead late on.

Some stern words in the halftime huddle clearly fired the home side, as Penarth came out all guns blazing for the second period and produced some of the best hockey they have played all year.

Putting Cardiff under immense pressure from the start eventually proved too much for the visitors and, as they cracked, Penarth fired home five unanswered goals as Tom Haran, Chris Baker and Chris McCarthy added to a Lane brace that completed his hat-trick.

Cardiff managed to score a scrappy goal to reduce to deficit, but it wasn't long before Penarth restored their advantage to move up a place in the De Cymru & The Marches 1 divisional standings.

The 1st XI travels to Cardiff University on January 24 looking to extend their recent run of good form and avenge a home defeat earlier in the season.

The Seconds hope to have better luck with the weather as they host one of the many Whitchurch sides that proliferate in De Cymru 2.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via d_stevens81@hotmail.co .uk. **CL**

Football clubs merge to improve coaching levels

TWO local football clubs have merged, and they intend to offer excellent standards of coaching for boys and girls in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Barry Athletic FC and Vale Ladies & Girls FC have signed an official FAW affiliation agreement to merge, but will keep their names.

Barry Athletic FC were formed in 1975 and this year will celebrate their 40th anniversary with a series of events.

The senior team are the current champions of the Premier Division and the junior section currently provide football at under-14 and under-9 level but are looking to offer football for other ages from next season onwards.

The Vale Ladies & Girls FC were formed in 2012 but can already claim to be the largest female club in south Wales with a membership of over 150 players and provides football from under-8 right the way through to under-16 and senior level.

The chairman of Barry Athletic FC, Tony Barnett said: "After being approached by Vale Ladies & Girls with the idea of an affiliation, we didn't need to think twice.

"The Vale share the same ideas in terms of the growth and progression of children. We are proud to say that we can now help provide football for females of all ages."

Luke Williams, chairman of Vale Ladies & Girls FC, said: "This partnership presents lots of development opportunities over the coming years for both clubs who share ambitious plans for the future."

For more information, visit www.clubwebsite.co.uk/barryathleticfc ***or*** *www.valegirlsfc..co.uk.*

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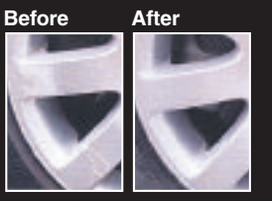

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Sports under-9s get bragging rights

IN the third derby of the season between the closest of rivals, it was Bridgend Sports under-9s who claimed the bragging rights over Bridgend Athletic, and deservedly so for a team performance full of discipline and determination.

The two previous games between the sides had ended with one victory for the Athletic and one draw. This result levelled the series of matches and showed how much the young Sports squad has developed over the season to date, especially when consideration is given to the fact that a number of players were absent through injury or illness on the day.

The Athletic won the toss and started the game with a run from deep at the Sports defence; the attack was quickly brought to a halt by the well-organised defence of the Sports. A loose pass was snapped up by Tyron Davies and the ball was soon worked quickly upfield, with all Sports players supporting and passing for Joel Rogers to break the Athletic defence to claim the first score of the game.

In a typical local derby, defence dominated for a period, as play edged to and fro before Bridgend Athletic's Tristan James unlocked the scoreboard, as he raced across field and down the touch line to bring the scores level at one try a piece.

Determined not to be out-scored, Bridgend Sports hit back after a run from Dewi Worrall, he passed to Joel Rogers who jinxed and outsmarted the defence to create space and provide the final pass to Iestyn John who scored near the corner for the Sports to take a 2-1 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Athletic levelled early as Tristan James showed his pace down the wing again to score. It is a mark of a good side in how it is able to respond to any setback. The young Sports side responded immediately as Tyron Davies cut his way through the Ath's line for his team to regain the lead.

The young blue and whites then really stepped up their game and showed excellent team spirit as they worked together to thwart every Bridgend Athletic attack.

Ben King put in the outstanding tackle of the day, as he put his body on the line five metres from his own line to deny the Athletic a certain score and secure important ball.

The Sports players then combined well as Dewi Worrall, Cian John, Alex Stimpson and Tyron Davies took play up into the Athletic half and then sent Mackenzie Dent on a powerful charge that almost led to a further score.

The Athletic then forced the Sports back into their own half, but further Sports attacks ensued as Ben King, Dewi Worrall , Rhys Wilson, Tyron Davies, Thomas Coles and Mackenzie Dent all made good ground with some direct running, before the ball was worked along the line for Cian John to show his opponents a clean pair of heels to score a deserved try out wide, for the home side to lead 4-2.

Bridgend Athletic tried to hit back but were kept at bay by determined tackling from Callum Lewis, Dewi Worrall , Ben King, Alex Stimpson, Thomas Coles and the ever -present Tyron Davies for the home team.

In the final minutes of the game, the Sports attacked following a good break from Joel Rogers and then a couple of close range runs from Rhys Wilson and Ieuan Pilliner.

Despite a great effort, no further scores followed and the Sports deservedly claimed the spoils this time with a 4-2 win.

It was a just reward for their teamwork and hard work in tackling the opposition to secure possession and then retain it, to deny their opponents the ball.

SP

Sports denied by Bryncethin

BRIDGEND Sports under-15s made the short trip to Bryncethin for what was always going to be a tough game.

This match was billed as a preview for the upcoming Ospreys Cup Bowl semi-final between the two sides on March 29, and the Sports had a squad of 22 for the fixture.

Bryncethin had most of the territory early on and this helped their bright start to the game.

However, like last week, the Sports once again demonstrated their good defensive qualities as Bryncethin could not find a way to break through the Sports solid defence.

But, inevitably the Sports defence couldn't stand firm for much longer and after a period of pressure the hosts scored a short distance try to the right of the posts. Nevertheless, after conceding the first try of the match, the Sports were gradually making yards which brought them into the game.

The Sports were then rewarded for their spirit, when Number 8 Calum Reape showed good endeavour to charge down a Bryncethin kick which consequently landed perfectly in the try line for Calum to pounce on to score a converted try which put the Sports 7-5 in front.

The Sports then withstood some late first half pressure from Bryncethin to go into halftime in front.

The second half was a physical encounter where both teams gave their all to try and win the game. Much of this half was played in the middle of the pitch as a result of the Sports holding a good defensive line.

For large parts of this half, it was looking like the Sports would close out this game to claim a vital win but with roughly 10 minutes remaining the hosts put a dent in this hope as they upped the ante with a period of sustained pressure deep inside the Sports' 22.

Bryncethin stretched the Sports defence to the full and this created a large gap to the right of the Sports defence.

Bryncethin then played the ball to their right winger who was in plenty of space to put the home side 10-7 in front.

Despite the Sports' best efforts to regain the lead, Bryncethin then sealed the match with a further try to run out victors, 15-7.

The Sports ran a good Bryncethin side close and hopefully the boys can claim their revenge on Bryncethin by winning the more important encounter in the semi-final.

TP

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for January 19:

1st Kevin Maddox & Mike Best 68.65 per cent, 2nd Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 66.27, 3rd Debbie & Simon Richards 60.71.

LE

BARRY AND DISTRICT MEN'S SKITTLE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1:

Blue Monkey (D.McCarthy 28) 270, Bunker Boys (S.Western 35) 279; Bunker Boys (R.Bennett, J.Spur, S.Jeynes 24) 273, Ex-Servicemen (D.Stevens 31) 257; Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin 29) 281, Park Rangers (R.Webb 25) 258; Mighty Dockers (M.Conway, S.Conway 31) 303, Geest (D.Hawkins, L.Galsworthy 29) 301; The Hairy Lemons (R.Ryles 27) 265, Mighty Dockers (G.Gurd, M.Conway, J.Conway 26) 282; West End Stars (B.Alldred 28) 265, Blue Monkey (M.Underdown 30) 266.

Division 2: Abercrete (D.Arnold 30) 268, Sea View (N.Elson, B.Belby 29) 301; BP Breakaways (J.Mills 32) 273, Exiles (F.Coughlan 27) 244; Buffs Exiles (A.Kemp 27) 272, Willie Wombles (J.M.Parsons, B.Gratton 26) 241; Road Runners (I.Hill 26) 238, Posties (R.Harding 26) 253; Tynny Fliers (P.Jones 28) 296, Barry Social (H.Burrows 29) 289; Witchill Poachers (R.Ashby 34) 325, The Royalists (M.Durman 41) 342.

Division 3: Billy Bluebirds (G.Norris 32) 279, Castle Boys (K.Eveleigh 31) 260; Commanchies'2' (N.Watkins 29) 232,C.U.D. (P.Palmer 29) 281; The Rejects (P.Townsend, M.Dawe 32) 331, Cannon Balls (G.Currie 36) 319.

Allform Cup (week commencing February 2): Monday - Mighty Dockers v Ex-Servicemen; Tuesday - Sea View v Barry Social. Both matches to be played at the Wyndham Cons Club.

Holme Tower Trophy - Geest v Bunker Boys, Monday, February 2, Park Hotel; winners to play Billy Bluebirds on Thursday, February 5 at Sea View Club; British v Blue Monkey, Wednesday, February 4, Liberal Club; 49'ers v The Merrymen, Thursday, February 5, Witchill Hotel; 'H' Bells v Witchill Poachers, Thursday, February 5, King William IV.

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08 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc **£4,995**
57 **HYUNDAI i130 Style 2.0 Diesel 5-Dr** In silver, 72,000 miles, nice example **£4,995**
55 **MINI Cooper** In black (chilli pack), 17" alloys, host of extras, superb value at **£4,995**
53 **BMW 330 Diesel Sport Touring Auto** In silver with grey leather, nice example at **£4,995**
55 **MINI One 'Seven Edition'.** In met-red, 73,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc. **£4,795**
58 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In met turquoise, 55,000 miles **£4,695**
56 **SEAT Toledo 2.0 TDi Stylance Automatic.** In black, 61,000 mile diesel at **£4,695**
53 **MERCEDES SLK 200 6-Speed** In silver, 89,000 mile convertable at **£4,695**
09 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4s VTi** In met turquoise, 59,000 miles with a/c **£4,295**
08 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-Dr** In met grey, 52,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**
08 **SMART Fortwo Passion Automatic Convertable** In black/silver, 31,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,295**
07 **VAUXHALL Vectra Exclusive CDTi 5-Dr Auto** In silver, low mileage diesel at **£4,295**
54 **MINI Cooper.** In electric blue/black roof, nice specification, good looking mini at **£4,295**
57 **SEAT Ibiza 1.2 Reference 5-Dr** In met grey 53,000 miles **£3,995**
07 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Diesel Reference Sport 3-Dr** In red, 79,000 miles **£3,995**
55 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Zetec 5-Dr** In red, 42,000 miles, a/c, £30 road tax **£3,995**
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54 **JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel SE Estate** In met grey, 84,000 miles with leather heated seats **£3,695**
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57 **VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 SRi 5-Dr** In silver, 68,000 mile family hatch **£3,495**
07 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-Dr** In met-blue, 79,000 miles **£3,495**
08 **VAUXHALL Vectra 2.8 V6 Elite Auto.** Silver, black leather, 73,000 miles, top Vauxhall at **£3,295**
07 **CITROEN C4 1.6 SX 5-Dr Automatic** In silver, 46,000 miles, very nice example at **£3,295**
54 **JAGUAR X-Type 2.5 Auto SE** In black with black leather, 82,000 mile 4x4 at **£2,995**
57 **FORD KA Luxury** In silver with black leather, 37,000 miles, a/c alloys **£2,795**
07 **FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate.** In black, 33,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£2,695**
06 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Convertable** In silver, 84,000 miles **£2,795**
54 **SMART City Passion Auto.** In silver, 68,000 miles, low road tax, host of extras **£2,695**
05 **CITROEN Xsara Picasso Desire 1.8** In blue, 61,000 miles, family hatch **£2,495**
06 **PEUGEOT 407 2.0 SE.** In silver, 90,000 miles, family hatch with high spec **£1,995**
55 **RENAULT Scenic 2.0 Dynamique** In met blue, 76,000 miles, on offer at **£1,995**

08 LAND ROVER Discovery 2.7 Diesel Auto HSE
In silver with black leather, 63,000 miles, 7-seater, high spec
£18,995

CITROEN C5 VTR Plus 2.0 Petrol Automatic
Blue, 39,148 miles
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56 SUBARU TriBeca B9 Automatic 3.0 Litre 7 seater 4x4
Met grey with grey leather, 58,000 miles
£7,495

62 PEUGEOT 107 Active
Red, 21,000 miles, free road tax, 1 owner
£5,495

59 SKODA Octavia 1.9 Diesel SE Estate
In Silver, 75,000 miles, nice example
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Rhoose Lifeguards host 'the Vale speed relays'

The Rhoose Lifeguards.

RECENTLY, Rhoose Lifeguards hosted an afternoon of team relay races based on surf lifesaving events at Barry Leisure Centre.

The competition entitled 'Vale of Glamorgan Speed Relays' saw junior, senior and masters teams from Sker, Llantwit Major, Pen-y-bont, Southerndown and Rhoose take part in races including obstacle, manikin carry, rope throw, fin and medley events.

With each competitor in a team racing a pool length or 25 metres in events, the emphasis was on quick and 'speedy' races which kept the momentum and energy going throughout the afternoon. This was a great 'warm-up' for upcoming Welsh championships coming up in Februray.

Rhoose Lifeguards would like to thank all of the teams for taking part and for all of the volunteers who helped with timekeeping and organisational duties. **JF**

Lacie and Penny celebrate success.

Penny surprised by her award!

BARRY Athletic Tennis Club works hard to develop links across the local community in order to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages and contribute to the sense of wellbeing of the people of Barry and the Vale.

The tennis club regularly links with local small businesses, providing mutually beneficial platforms for promotion and services.

They range from one-off raffle donations, helping to raise funds for the volunteer-run club, to event support (such as the Bakeoff supported by the Vale Cake Boutique, Barry Island Café Coastal Coffee, and local Pampered Chef Franchisee), and to the successful community partnership it enjoys with local company FitM8.

Thanks to the partnership, Barry Athletic Tennis Club can now offer a regular player of the month award, where FitM8 presents a tennis racquet and certificate to an outstanding mini or junior player each month.

The tennis club's junior development officer, Penny Mickelsen, has been the chief link between the club and the wider community, and she was surprised at the junior Christmas party with a presentation of flowers and award from FitM8 as 'outstanding community partner'.

After receiving her award, Penny commented: "I love my work with the tennis club, both as a coach and a volunteer, and have met some fantastic people as a result of my involvement.

"Seeing players enjoying themselves and developing a love of the game thanks to the small input I can have is hugely rewarding in itself, so the award really was the icing on the cake to mark the end of a thoroughly fulfilling year."

PM

Plenty for Evan to smile about

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow, had plenty to smile about at the Welsh borders track last Thursday.

His *Firebird Flyer* won the 'Royal Highness the Prince Of Wales Challenge Trophy Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase', and his promising *Armchair Theatre* took the Ludlow Intermediate National Hunt Conditional Jockeys and Amateur Riders' flat race.

Firebird Flyer, ridden by Conor Orr, won by six lengths from Firm Order at odds of 4-1 and *Armchair Theatre*, partnered by Lewis Gordon, accounted for Henry Daly's HeresMyNumber.

Evan said: "To be fair to *Firebird Flyer* he ran a good race to finish fourth at Haydock last time he ran, so he came here in good form. It's great for Conor as it was his first winner and I thought he gave it a sensible ride.

"As they do in these amateur rider races, they went at a strong gallop and the race fell apart. I think that was what it was down to more than anything but Conor rode a nice waiting race. I think the horse will get it from the handicapper now and will probably struggle when he goes up in the weights.

"We've run him in better races in the past and he's not been good enough. It was a good prize to win today, though, so we are not complaining."

On *Armchair Theatre*, Evan said: "Lewis Gordon guided him to an impressive win on the horse's racecourse debut. He's a horse we have always thought the world of, but because he's quite a narrow horse, we struggle to keep condition on him. But make no mistake he is a very talented horse."

Evan's stable jockey Paul Moloney also had plenty to smile about. He had a double for West Wales trainer Rebecca Curtis.

The first leg was initiated when *Ballyhollow* came home ahead of Evan's *Still Believing* in the Ludow Racecourse Bookmakers Mares' Handicap Hurdle and the second when the well fancied *Scorpiancer* landed the Ludlow Maiden Hurdle.

Paul, who is the top rider at Ludlow, has now ridden 44 winners there, and most of them for Evan, who brought his total of Ludlow winners to 56.

PAUL'S TAUNTON DOUBLE

Paul Moloney stable jockey to Llancarfan's Evan Williams landed a double for his boss at Taunton last Saturday.

Paul took the opening EBF Stallions' National Hunt Novice Hurdle on *Padge*, the 5-4 favourite, who won by a neck from *Quinlando*, and later took the Bathwick Tyres Taunton Handicap Hurdle on *Oscar Sunset*, who came home two-and-a-quarter lengths ahead of the top weighted *Southfield Royale*.

Oscar Sunset, who had been second in his previous two races, went off the 11-4 favourite.

BRIAN LEE

Table tennis sessions

COWBRIDGE Leisure Centre is now hosting community table tennis sessions for anyone interested in taking up the sport or developing their skills.

All ages and skill levels are encouraged to come along. The sessions will be delivered by a qualified coach as part of the active young people's community sessions in the Vale.

For those simply looking for a new hobby, people are more than welcome to just turn up and have a game.

The sessions will run on Wednesdays from 4.30pm to 5.30pm and will cost £2 per person.

For further information please contact 5x60 Officer, Steffan Williams, on 07702 479 672.

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The game that got away from the Athletic...

DESPITE dominating proceedings for about 70 minutes, Bridgend Athletic paid the penalty for not making the game safe when they had the opportunities and a determined and skilful team in Glynneath were able to score 10 points in 10 minutes to pluck the result out of the fire, winning 13-12.

An overnight dusting of snow meant that the Glynneath committee spent the morning clearing the pitch by all means available, including burners, and then had to mark the lines in pink rather than the customary white, much to the amusement of their president, Welsh personality Max Boyce. By the time the game kicked off though, there was little sign of snow but the pitch soon cut-up and became stickier as the game progressed.

The home team started well and signalled their intent to play a high tempo, high risk game by moving the ball through the hands at every opportunity. The Athletic were much more pragmatic in their approach and as their forwards became more dominant it was the shrewd and accurate kicking game of half-backs Jake Williams and Josh White and full-back Lindsay MacCausland that gave the visitors much better field position.

This allowed Henri Williams and his second-row partner Tom Penry-Ellis to carry the ball forward, ably supported by the front row of Matt Muir, Rod Apsee and the dynamic hooker Simon Mustoe.

The Athletic have developed a very efficient driving maul under the tutelage of Ian Greenslade and showed it to good effect again in this game. From one such phase Glynneath prop David Jones resorted to collapsing the drive and was shown a yellow card for his pains.

From the resulting penalty, Josh White was unable to score the points. Nevertheless the Athletic drove forward once more from the drop-out and a series of quickly won rucks stretched the defence one way, and as the ball came back towards the posts another quick ruck allowed White to float a kick past the defence for centre Ryan Owen to gather and dab down wide-out for the opening try. White was unable to convert from the touchline.

With a numerical advantage, the Athletic again surged forward and forced a penalt,y but White's effort hit the top of the upright and rebounded into play. Glynneath's desperate defence allowed them to move upfield before excellent scavenging by Matthew Hillman won a penalty near halfway.

A quick tap by captain Sean Williams turned the defence and he found Rod Apsee in support. The prop linked smoothly with Jake Williams and his pass allowed speedy wing Dan Howells to sprint over from 20 metres to score in the corner. This time Josh White sent the ball sailing between the uprights to give the Athletic a halftime lead of 12 points.

The second period followed a similar pattern early on as the Athletic, played for position but Glynneath forced a couple of penalties and although one kick at goal was missed by centre Jack O'Reilly, he made no mistake minutes later to reduce the deficit to nine points.

This galvanised the Athletic to carry the play into their opponent's half. A fine drive from the line-out almost resulted in another score but number 8 Dan Apsee knocked on as he crossed the line.

Bridgend Athletic continued to press as they brought fresh players into the fray. Another effective drive looked set to result in a try right next to the posts when referee Mr Gareth John chose to penalise replacement scrum-half Aled Thomas for vigorously pointing out that a Glynneath player was in an offside position.

From then on, the wind seemed to have been taken out of the Athletic's sails with that decision and the home team were rejuvenated.

They surged into the Athletic half and some sharp accurate interpassing led to centre Greg Roberts scoring close to the posts and O'Reilly converting to bring them within two.

It was not long before the inevitable occurred when the home team drove down the middle of the field and an Athletic defender stepped offside.

Up stepped O'Reilly to give Glynneath the lead with two minutes to go. Despite a valiant effort to carry the game back to a winnable postion, the Athletic were unable to make progress and a knock forward allowed the referee to blow time on the one that got away from a Bridgend Athletic perspective.

Coaches Dai Williams and Ian Greenslade, along with the small band of travelling supporters, were left extremely disappointed by the result and now need to prepare for the visit of the students of Cardiff Met this week.

MD

Poor start costs Pencoed place in the last eight of the Plate

ABOVE: Man of the match James Tredray (centre) shone in this encounter, while RIGHT: try scorer Gareth Prentice refuses to go down under a tackle.
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

THE opening quarter of this game against Newcastle Emlyn was to cost Pencoed a place in the last eight of the Swalec Plate, the home side scoring all their points during this period, and despite Pencoed dominating the second period through their scrummage superiority, a malfunctioning lineout on the day proved to be their achillies heel.

It was however Pencoed who threatened in the opening minutes, a clever kick from scrum half Kyle Barrett to the corner flag almost bringing a score. The home side then intercepted in their own 22 for right wing Llyr Jones to race away, and only a superb cover tackle from full back Tom Cross saved a score.

Left wing Dan Davies then opened the scoring for Newcastle Emlyn with a penalty goal, and soon after Davies created the home try with a well-balanced swerving run into the Pencoed 22 before kicking ahead for centre Howells to just get the touchdown within the 20 metre-plus in goal area!

Davies added another 35-metre penalty goal and Pencoed somehow found themselves 13-0 down after 20 minutes. Despite the scoreline, the Pencoed front row of skipper Keiron Moore, hooker Tom Drew, and emergent youth prop James Tredray were beginning to give their counterparts a torrid time at the scrum, setting the platform for a blindside raid through Barrett, Cross, and Glen Hiscocks, again a home interception metres from their home line coming to the rescue.

Prior to the interval Adam Williams opened the Pencoed scoring with a penalty goal, and the home side led 13-3 at the interval.

The Pencoed pack had the home eight in complete disarray at the opening scrum of the second period, with their tight head shown a yellow card. Young Tredray then caught the eye, ripping the ball from the opposition at a maul. Unfortunately for Pencoed, they continued to concede possession at the lineout with their continuity of play suffering as a result.

That said, going into the final quarter it was Pencoed who were taking the game to their First Division opponents; however they were unable at this juncture to gain a foothold in prime position to make their scrum dominance tell on the scoreboard. Tthis was due in part to some good clearance work from the Newcastle Emlyn back three.

Going into the final minutes, breaks from Gareth Prentice and Lloyd Ryland took Pencoed deep into the home 22, and at a resultant scrum the Pencoed pack drove the home side off their own ball for No8 Gareth Prentice to get the touchdown.

Pencoed threw everything at their beleaguered opponents in the dying minutes but on this occasion it was not quite enough, and one could not begrudge Newcastle Emlyn their win, the west Wales side having coped with three yellow cards through the course of the match.

Adam Williams closes down a Newcastle Emlyn attacker.

Pencoed will reflect on a match which could have been won, but now turn their attention to league matters and, on Saturday, entertain Cwmgors at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

The Pencoed 2nd XV will host Nantyffylon this Saturday in the Mid Glamorgan Barrie Morris Plate competition, 2pm kick off.

Pencoed Youth gained an Ospreys league double over Bridgend Sports Youth with a hard fought 5-0 home win.

On Saturday, the youth have a scheduled league match at Nantyffyllon.,

In a match played at the Woodlands ground, the under-13s beat Porth by 27 points to 5.

The talented Pencoed under-16 squad have five players selected for the Ospreys east squad which travels to north Wales on Sunday to meet an RGC select.

The Pencoed players involved in this squad are Max Brennan, Cameron Fyvie Davies, Zac Taylor, Tom Williams and Tommy Reffell, who will captain the side.

Further recognition comes with the selection of Dewi Parrish, Josh Raikes, Callum Palmer and Garwyn Williams for the Ospreys development squad.

Pencoed RFC extend their congratulations to all the players concerned, and everyone involved in their career paths to date.

,TR

BRIDGEND BRIDGE RESULTS

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, January 14 - First, Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram; Second, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones; Third, Liam Sheridan and John Beard. Winners on handicap Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram.

Thursday, January 15 - First Christine and John Evans; Second, Barrie Jenkins and Venessa Beacham; Third, John Beard and Teresa Grffiths.

Friday, January 16 - First, Ray Jones and Irene Thomas; Second, Norma and David Newman; Third, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner. Winners on handicap Debbie and Dave Lea.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge. Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Lessons take place, also at Nolton Church Hall, on Thursday mornings at 11am - these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve either or both there bidding and card play; more information is available from John Evans.

SUCCESS FOR BRIDGEND BRIDGE PLAYERS

At the weekend Bridgend Bridge Club was proud to supply seven of the 24 pairs who contested the western area qualifier for the national pairs final, securing the top two places through Tony Haworth and Rob Charlesworth, with Steve Burgoyne and John Evans close behind in second pace.

With Tony Disley coming fourth, the club secured three of the top four places, and depending on the qualifying standard, Bridgend could have five pairs at the national finals in mid Wales over the weekend of March 14/15.

DN

FUNERAL OF RUGBY STAR

THE funeral of former Wales Rugby League international, Paul Morgan of Pencoed, who died on January 12 takes place on Friday, January 23 at St David's Church, Neath at 2.15pm, followed by burial at 3pm in St Catwgs Church, Cadoxton, Neath.